

DRAFT

SUMMARY

Requires Oregon Health Authority to take specific steps to improve assistance provided to individuals applying for or seeking to renew medical assistance eligibility.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to medical assistance; creating new provisions; and amending ORS
3 411.400 and 414.041.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2017 Act is added to and made a part**
6 **of ORS chapter 414.**

7 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section, “application assister” means**
8 **an individual employed by an independent nonprofit organization who**
9 **is trained to assist an applicant for, or a recipient of, medical assist-**
10 **ance in completing application and renewal forms and complying with**
11 **procedures to qualify for the medical assistance program.**

12 **(2) In order to facilitate the enrollment of eligible individuals in the**
13 **medical assistance program, the Oregon Health Authority shall:**

14 **(a) Maintain a statewide network of application assisters to ensure**
15 **that there is at least one application assister for every 10,000 medical**
16 **assistance recipients;**

17 **(b) Maintain an easy and efficient procedure for coordinated care**
18 **organizations to refer members to the authority for assistance with**
19 **applications and renewals;**

20 **(c) Allow coordinated care organizations to provide funding to in-**

1 **dependent nonprofit organizations that provide application assistance;**

2 **(d) Allow coordinated care organizations to provide application as-**
3 **sistance to individuals who are applying for or seeking to renew med-**
4 **ical assistance and who reside in geographic areas served by only one**
5 **coordinated care organization; and**

6 **(e) Ensure that effective procedures are in place to reenroll an in-**
7 **dividual who was involuntarily disenrolled as a result of incarceration**
8 **immediately upon the individual's discharge from incarceration.**

9 **(3) The authority shall request any federal approval that may be**
10 **required in order to secure federal financial participation in the costs**
11 **of complying with this section.**

12 **SECTION 3.** ORS 414.041 is amended to read:

13 414.041. (1) The Oregon Health Authority, under the direction of the
14 Oregon Health Policy Board and in collaboration with the Department of
15 Human Services, shall implement a streamlined and simple application **and**
16 **renewal** process for the medical assistance and premium assistance programs
17 administered by the Oregon Health Authority. The process must meet the
18 requirements of ORS 411.400, 411.402, 411.404, 411.406, 411.408 and 411.967 **and**
19 **section 2 of this 2017 Act.**

20 (2) *[In developing the simplified application process, the authority shall*
21 *consult with]* **The authority shall convene an advisory group, that in-**
22 **cludes stakeholders and** persons not employed by the authority who have
23 experience in serving vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations, **to develop,**
24 **implement and continuously improve the application and renewal**
25 **process for the medical assistance program.**

26 (3) The authority and the department shall facilitate outreach and en-
27 rollment efforts to connect eligible individuals with all available publicly
28 funded health programs.

29 **SECTION 4.** ORS 411.400 is amended to read:

30 411.400. (1) An application for any category of aid shall also constitute
31 an application for medical assistance.

1 (2) Except as provided in subsection (6) of this section, the Department
2 of Human Services and the Oregon Health Authority shall accept an appli-
3 cation for medical assistance and any required verification of eligibility from
4 the applicant, an adult who is in the applicant's household or family, an
5 authorized representative of the applicant or, if the applicant is a minor or
6 incapacitated, someone acting on behalf of the applicant:

7 (a) Over the Internet;

8 (b) By telephone;

9 (c) By mail;

10 (d) In person; and

11 (e) Through other commonly available electronic means.

12 (3) The department and the authority may require an applicant or person
13 acting on behalf of an applicant to provide only the information necessary
14 for the purpose of making an eligibility determination or for a purpose di-
15 rectly connected to the administration of medical assistance or the health
16 insurance exchange.

17 (4) The department and the authority shall provide application and [*re-*
18 *certification*] **renewal** assistance, **in accordance with section 2 of this 2017**
19 **Act**, to individuals with disabilities, individuals with limited English profi-
20 ciency, individuals facing physical or geographic barriers and individuals
21 seeking help with the application for medical assistance or recertification
22 of eligibility for medical assistance:

23 (a) Over the Internet;

24 (b) By telephone; and

25 (c) In person.

26 (5)(a) The Department of Human Services and the authority shall
27 promptly transfer information received under this section to the Department
28 of Consumer and Business Services, the United States Department of Health
29 and Human Services or the Internal Revenue Service as necessary for the
30 determination of eligibility for the health insurance exchange, premium tax
31 credits or cost-sharing reductions.

1 (b) The Department of Human Services shall promptly transfer informa-
2 tion received under this section to the authority for individuals who are el-
3 igible for medical assistance because they qualify for public assistance.

4 (6) The Department of Human Services and the authority shall accept
5 from the Department of Consumer and Business Services an application and
6 any verification that was submitted to the Department of Consumer and
7 Business Services by an applicant or on behalf of an applicant in order for
8 the Department of Human Services or the authority to determine the
9 applicant's eligibility for medical assistance.

10 **SECTION 5. ORS 414.041 is added to and made a part of ORS chapter**
11 **414.**

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