

SB 397 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

Prepared By: Matt Doumit, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Department of Human Services to convene work group to develop common comprehensive client confidentiality release form for use by public bodies and relevant community organizations. Sunsets work group January 2, 2019. Directs Department of Justice (DOJ) to review state laws and recommend to the Legislative Assembly modifications to facilitate better communication in social services delivery. Requires DOJ to develop, maintain, and make available information sharing guide detailing laws governing release of certain information. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

FISCAL: May Have Fiscal Impact, But No Statement Yet Issued

REVENUE: May Have Revenue Impact, But No Statement Yet Issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Defines "public body." Excludes courts from entities covered by measure.

BACKGROUND:

In 2013, the Senate Bill 440 created a task force to examine the delivery of human services throughout Oregon and make recommendations. Major recommendations from the task force include improving information sharing between individuals and in the aggregate between state and local agencies, developing a common confidentiality release form to be used by all agencies, and a further examination of current statutes to recommend ways to facilitate better communication between agencies at the state and local level.

Senate Bill 397 directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to convene a work group to develop a common comprehensive client confidentiality release form that can be used by public bodies and community organizations that provide social services. DHS is required to report back to the Legislature on the progress of the work group in the 2018 regular session, and have a comprehensive release form ready for use by July 1, 2018. The measure also requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to consult with social service agencies and organizations and recommend legislation to improve communications between them to the 2019 Legislature. DOJ is also directed to develop (and later update and maintain) a publicly-available information sharing guide, outlining state and federal laws on sharing certain confidential information, for use by state agencies and social service providers, by December 31, 2018.