

SB 397 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

Action Date: 02/13/17

Action: Do pass with amendments. Refer to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng).

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Gelser, Knopp, Monnes Anderson, Olsen

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Matt Doumit, LPRO Analyst

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Department of Human Services to convene a work group to develop a 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, recommend modifications to improve communications in the delivery of social services, and report to the Legislative Assembly. Requires DOJ to develop, maintain, and make available an information-sharing guide detailing laws that govern the release of certain information. Defines terms. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Task force recommendations for improving provision of social services
- Level of need in facilitating efficient social services through information-sharing standardization
- Protection of rights and privacy
- Information-sharing in juvenile justice system and other states
- Data security and accessibility

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

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

BACKGROUND:

In 2013, Senate Bill 450 created a task force to examine the delivery of human services throughout Oregon and make recommendations for improving efficiency. Primary recommendations included improving information sharing between state and local agencies (about individuals and in the aggregate), developing a common confidentiality release form to be used by all agencies, and further examination of current statutes to find ways to facilitate better communication between agencies at the state and local level.

Senate Bill 397 A directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to convene a work group to develop a comprehensive standard client confidentiality release form for use by public bodies and community organizations that provide social services. The measure requires DHS to report to the Legislative Assembly during 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, by 2019. 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.