

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

79th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2017 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

Measure: HB 2838 - A

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

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

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

Analysis:

House Bill 2838 establishes the Oregon Health Authority Assister Fund consisting of voluntary contributions from coordinated care organizations (CCO). Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to provide grants to independent nonprofit organizations providing application assistance to ensure that there is at least one individual available to provide application assistance for every 1,000 medical assistance recipients. The bill requires OHA to facilitate the enrollment of eligible individuals in the medical assistance program by taking specified actions including providing these grants. The bill directs OHA to update, at least monthly, the information provided to each CCO about its members including but not limited to the member’s address, eligibility category, phone number, electronic mail address, date of renewal, and termination date. OHA must provide training to employees of CCOs who are responsible for updating member information in the state databases. The bill permits OHA to convene and advisory group to develop, implement, and continuously improve the application and renewal process for the medical assistance program.

The fiscal impact of this bill to OHA is indeterminate. With passage of this bill OHA will incur an ongoing cost to deliver training to all CCO staff that update member information, and the agency may need to hire additional trainers. As a point of reference, the personal services and related services and supplies expenses for one trainer position is \$183,522 a biennium. Trainer positions are eligible for a 50% federal match.

In addition, if CCOs fail to voluntarily contribute adequately to the Oregon Health Assister Fund, OHA may need additional funding resources to ensure compliance of maintaining one individual to provide application assistance per 1,000 recipients.