

House Bill 2838

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

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 411.400 and 414.041.

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 **(c) Allow coordinated care organizations to provide funding to independent nonprofit or-**
16 **ganizations that provide application assistance;**

17 **(d) Allow coordinated care organizations to provide application assistance to individuals**
18 **who are applying for or seeking to renew medical assistance and who reside in geographic**
19 **areas served by only one coordinated care organization; and**

20 **(e) Ensure that effective procedures are in place to reenroll an individual who was in-**
21 **voluntarily disenrolled as a result of incarceration immediately upon the individual's dis-**
22 **charge from incarceration.**

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

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

26 **414.041. (1) The Oregon Health Authority, under the direction of the Oregon Health Policy**
27 **Board and in collaboration with the Department of Human Services, shall implement a streamlined**
28 **and simple application **and renewal** process for the medical assistance and premium assistance**
29 **programs administered by the Oregon Health Authority. The process must meet the requirements**
30 **of ORS 411.400, 411.402, 411.404, 411.406, 411.408 and 411.967 **and section 2 of this 2017 Act.****

31 **(2) [*In developing the simplified application process, the authority shall consult with*] **The au-****

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **thority shall convene an advisory group, that includes stakeholders and** persons not employed
 2 by the authority who have experience in serving vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations, **to de-**
 3 **velop, implement and continuously improve the application and renewal process for the**
 4 **medical assistance program.**

5 (3) The authority and the department shall facilitate outreach and enrollment efforts to connect
 6 eligible individuals with all available publicly funded health programs.

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

8 411.400. (1) An application for any category of aid shall also constitute an application for med-
 9 ical assistance.

10 (2) Except as provided in subsection (6) of this section, the Department of Human Services and
 11 the Oregon Health Authority shall accept an application for medical assistance and any required
 12 verification of eligibility from the applicant, an adult who is in the applicant's household or family,
 13 an authorized representative of the applicant or, if the applicant is a minor or incapacitated, some-
 14 one acting on behalf of the applicant:

- 15 (a) Over the Internet;
- 16 (b) By telephone;
- 17 (c) By mail;
- 18 (d) In person; and
- 19 (e) Through other commonly available electronic means.

20 (3) The department and the authority may require an applicant or person acting on behalf of
 21 an applicant to provide only the information necessary for the purpose of making an eligibility de-
 22 termination or for a purpose directly connected to the administration of medical assistance or the
 23 health insurance exchange.

24 (4) The department and the authority shall provide application and [*recertification*] **renewal** as-
 25 sistance, **in accordance with section 2 of this 2017 Act**, to individuals with disabilities, individuals
 26 with limited English proficiency, individuals facing physical or geographic barriers and individuals
 27 seeking help with the application for medical assistance or recertification of eligibility for medical
 28 assistance:

- 29 (a) Over the Internet;
- 30 (b) By telephone; and
- 31 (c) In person.

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

37 (b) The Department of Human Services shall promptly transfer information received under this
 38 section to the authority for individuals who are eligible for medical assistance because they qualify
 39 for public assistance.

40 (6) The Department of Human Services and the authority shall accept from the Department of
 41 Consumer and Business Services an application and any verification that was submitted to the De-
 42 partment of Consumer and Business Services by an applicant or on behalf of an applicant in order
 43 for the Department of Human Services or the authority to determine the applicant's eligibility for
 44 medical assistance.

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

