

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

79th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2018 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

Measure: HB 4079

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

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Measure Description:

Requires Department of Human Services to disregard as resources moneys held in specified pension and retirement accounts in determining eligibility for temporary assistance for needy families.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Human Services (DHS)

Summary of Expenditure Impact - DHS:

Costs related to the measure are indeterminate at this time - See explanatory analysis.

Analysis:

HB 4079 directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to disregard retirement and pension accounts when determining eligibility for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). The bill takes effect January 1, 2019.

The full impact of this bill on TANF caseload is indeterminate, at this time. If this bill passes, additional families could potentially be eligible for TANF. DHS anticipates this change to be minimal to its current caseload because at present, the agency denies very few families for being over TANF resource limit due to pension and retirement accounts. However, this change in eligibility may have significant impact in the event of future widespread economic crises, like the 2008 stock market crash, which may cause much higher numbers of applicants with established pension and retirement accounts who have lost work to apply for TANF.

Eligibility system changes will be needed to implement the bill and will be added to the agency's existing technology workplan. This may cause delays for other projects or system enhancements.