

**HB 4079 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Early Childhood and Family Supports**

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**Action Date:** 02/13/18

**Action:** Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

**Vote:** 7-2-0-0

**Yeas:** 7 - Boles, Bynum, Hayden, Keny-Guyer, Lively, Malstrom, Piluso

**Nays:** 2 - Bonham, Smith DB

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires Department of Human Services (DHS), when determining eligibility for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), to disregard as resources any moneys held in specified pension and retirement accounts.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Need for individuals to financially prepare for retirement
- Extent of bill's impact on TANF eligibility

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The TANF program provides cash assistance and client services to families with incomes below the federal poverty level (a measure of income issued every year by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to determine the income needed to meet basic needs). The federal poverty threshold for a family of three is \$1,632 per month. There were 16,211 Oregon families receiving TANF benefits in December 2016 and 17,262 total Oregon families (15,363 adults and 27,382 children) received TANF benefits in fiscal year 2016. Of the adults that received TANF benefits in fiscal year 2016, 96 percent were under age 50. Eligibility criteria and the amount of monthly benefit for the TANF program depends on the size of the family and the financial resources available to the family.

HB 4079 requires DHS to disregard pension and retirement accounts as financial resources available to families when determining eligibility for TANF.