

HB 2032 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 1/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to adopt rules specifying qualifications for the Temporary Assistance and Needy Families program (TANF). Eliminates certain qualification requirements. Directs DHS to provide aid to a family when the family becomes ineligible for TANF because of increased work hours, for 12 consecutive months or until the household income exceeds 250 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, whichever occurs first. Adds hearing rights. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF) provides cash assistance to low-income families with children while they strive to become self-sufficient. Cash assistance is intended to help meet a family's basic needs for items such as food, clothing, shelter and utilities. Most cash benefits in Oregon are issued via an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card. This is also known as the Oregon Trail Card. Aid includes services through the Job Opportunity and Basic Skills program (JOBS). Most people who receive TANF benefits are required to participate in the JOBS program.