

HB 2245 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

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Meeting Dates: 1/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to use any savings in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF) resulting from policy changes, improvement of the economy or other factors, to increase the amount of cash grants paid to participating families or increase investments in the Job Opportunity and Basic Skills program (JOBS).

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 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.

There are different programs within the Job Opportunity and Basic Skills program (JOBS). Most people who receive TANF are required to participate in the JOBS program. The JOBS program provides activities and components tailored to help individuals achieve self-sufficiency.