

HB 2524 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

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Meeting Dates: 3/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires long term care facilities to inform residents about the availability and services of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman and remind residents at least every six months, or at a frequency established by rule. Requires residential facilities and adult foster homes to notify residents about the availability and services of the Residential Facilities Ombudsman and remind residents at least every six months, or at a frequency established by rule. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO) program is an independent state agency that serves long-term care facility residents through complaint investigation, resolution and advocacy for improvement in resident care. The mission of Oregon's LTCO is to protect individual rights, enhance quality of life, improve care, and promote dignity of residents living in Oregon's licensed long-term care facilities. Program staff work with a statewide network of over 180 volunteers who work in their own communities in a variety of roles to achieve this vision and mission. The services of the LTCO are free and available to residents, families, facility staff, and the general public.

The Residential Facilities Ombudsman program (RFO) is also part of an independent state agency. RFO provides advocacy services with and on behalf of 8,200+ individuals living in more than 2,300 licensed or certified homes for Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities as well as homes for Mental Health Conditions statewide.

House Bill 2524 requires long term care facilities, residential facilities, and adult foster homes to notify, and provide regular reminders to, residents of available Ombudsman services.