

## **SB 795 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **Senate Committee On Health Care**

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**Meeting Dates:** 3/18, 4/1

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Specifies the requirements for the Oregon Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Program (ODHHS). Requires ODHHS to cooperate with the employment Department to study ways to eliminate unemployment and underemployment of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. Requires ODHHS to cooperate with the Department of Education and educational institutions to promote educational programs designed to increase the number of qualified interpreters, captioners, and providers of assisted listening systems and other accommodation services. Requires ODHHS to develop and recommend uniform statewide standards and procedures for the qualification and certification of persons providing communication or accommodation services to people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Requires ODHHS to study and report to the Department of Human Services on the development of assistive technologies. Requires ODHHS to recommend statutory changes to the Legislative Assembly to improve access and accessibility for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. Requires that a majority of members of the ODHHS advisory committee be deaf or hard of hearing.

*REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.*

*FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.*

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-1 Requires DHS to consult with advisory committee on prioritizing of services. Authorizes DHS to adopt rules.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The Department of Human Services' (DHS) Oregon Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services program is a resource for all Oregonians, aimed at improving the quality of life for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people and their families. ODHHS coordinates requests for sign language interpreter/real-time captioner services. In 2016, ODHHS issued the "Community-Based Needs Assessment of Oregon's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Communities" that had 12 findings for consideration in improving services to Oregon's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Communities.

The Oregon Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Advisory Committee (ODHHAC) assists Oregon Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (ODHHS) by providing information and expertise on issues affecting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Senate Bill 795 clarifies and adds requirements for the Oregon Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service Program.