

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 795 - 1

80th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2019 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*Prepared by: Kim To
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Date: April 1, 2019**Measure Description:**

Prescribes requirements for Oregon Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Services Program.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Education (ODE), Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), Employment Department (OED)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure will require budgetary action - See analysis.

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

Department of Human Services	2019-21 Biennium	2021-23 Biennium
General Fund		
Personal Services	1,278,850	1,764,019
Services and Supplies	345,834	432,175
Office of Information Services	72,737	0
Employment Study	250,000	0
Assistive Technology Study	150,000	0
Adaptive Technology Study	150,000	0
Support Services Provider Program	1,260,000	1,260,000
Support Services Provider Training	1,800,000	1,800,000
Total Funds	\$5,307,421	\$5,256,194
Positions	11	11
FTE	8.00	11.00

Analysis:

SB 795 with the -1 amendment changes permissive language to mandated language, requiring the Department of Human Services (DHS) to expand services to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. The measure requires the Oregon Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Program in DHS to:

- Identify needs and publicize resources for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to ensure access to public services, social services, health care, education, early intervention, vocational training and rehabilitation, mental health services, housing, employment, emergency services, transportation, legal services, communication services, and other resources in order for these individuals to achieve economic, social, legal, and political equity.
- Advise DHS, the Governor, the Legislative Assembly, and other state agencies on how to improve and better coordinate services.
- Develop and recommend uniform statewide standards and procedures for the qualification and certification of persons who provide communication or accommodation services to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Provide communication assistance to individuals with language deprivation or disabilities in interactions with state and local agencies.

- Collaborate with the Department of Education, universities and colleges and private educational institutions in Oregon to promote ongoing and expanded educational programs designed to increase the number of qualified interpreters, captioners and providers of assistive listening systems and other accommodation services.
- Encourage public and private employers to provide equal access to employment, including promoting a continuous program of information and education to employers and the general public to increase awareness of and sensitivity to the needs of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing for equitable education and training that will ensure for these individuals their full vocational potential.
- Cooperate and provide assistance to interest groups concerned with the rehabilitation and employment of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and encourage public and private employers to undertake affirmative action to ensure equitable employment of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Establish a program to increase the number of support service providers for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing or who are deaf or hard of hearing with other disabilities.
- Provide advocates to assist individuals in accessing the services.
- Recommend to the Legislature statutory changes to improve access to qualified providers of accommodation services.

DHS estimates the fiscal impact of this bill to be \$5,307,421 General Fund and 11 positions (8.00 FTE) for the 2019-21 biennium; and \$5,256,194 General Fund and 11 positions (11.00 FTE) for the 2021-23 biennium.

Personal services and related services and supplies reflect the following additional staff to work with two existing Operations and Policy Analyst 2 positions to provide the expanded services as mandated by the measure:

- One Principal Executive Manager D position to manage the expanded team; set priorities and long-term plans; guide development of new programs and services; support efforts to strengthen partnerships with public and private employers, the Employment Department, and the Department of Education.
- Five Operations and Policy Analyst 2 positions to: (1) work with the community to identify and meet needs in accessing public services, social services, health care, education, early intervention, vocational training and rehabilitation, mental health services, housing, employment, emergency services, transportation, legal services, communication services, and other resources; (2) cooperate with and provide assistance to interest groups concerned with the rehabilitation and employment of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing; (3) manage the employment and technology studies; (4) develop the certification program for persons who provide communication or accommodation services to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing; and (5) develop and manage the new support services program to increase the number of support service providers for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing or who are deaf or hard of hearing with other disabilities.
- One Office Specialist 2 position to support the staff charged with developing the qualifications and certifications of persons who provide communication or accommodation services to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and the new support services provider program.
- Two Human Services Case Managers to assist deaf and hard of hearing consumers to access communication assistance and support services, and to advocate for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing.
- Two Public Services Representative 4 positions to provide information to individual who are deaf or hard of hearing about how they can access rehabilitation and employment, promote information and education to employers and general public to increase awareness to the needs of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

In addition to staffing costs the fiscal calculations includes:

- \$72,317 to purchase and implement new software to facilitate the work of establishing uniform statewide standards and procedures for the qualification and certification of persons who provide communication or accommodation services to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- \$250,000 to cooperate with the Employment Department to study ways to eliminate unemployment and underemployment of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- \$150,000 for a study on the development of assistive technology and promote the use of assistive technology.

- \$150,000 for a study on the development of adaptive technology and promote the use of adaptive technology.
- \$1,260,000 for direct payments to care providers for individuals who are not Medicaid eligible but who are deaf or deaf blind.
- \$1,800,000 to work with the Oregon Home Care Commission to ensure that support service personnel know how to work with the deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf blind individuals.

The current level of limited program funding and staff capacity allows the agency to assist the advisory committee; provide some resource and referral information to the deaf and hard of hearing communities; and help consumers receive communication services needed to interact with state agencies.

Department of Education (ODE), Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC),
Employment Department (OED)

This measure is anticipated to have a minimal fiscal impact to ODE, HECC, OED. These agencies will use existing staff and resources to collaborate with DHS as directed by the measure.

This measure requires budgetary action for the allocation of General Fund resources and position establishment for the Department of Human Services.