

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 2626 - 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
Reviewed by: Tom MacDonald
Date: 2/27/2019**Measure Description:**

Expands eligibility for Women, Infants and Children Program nutrition assistance to mothers of children up to 24 months of age, paid for with state funds.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

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

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

	2019-21 Biennium	2021-23 Biennium
General Fund - Public Health Division (PHD)		
Personal Services	156,219	290,597
Services and Supplies	103,019	74,692
Special Payments	20,789,105	28,119,184
Total General Fund	\$21,048,343	\$28,484,473
Positions	4	3
FTE	1.27	1.50

Analysis:

HB 2626 with the -1 amendment expands eligibility for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) services to cover mothers of children up to 24 months of age. This population is beyond the current federal funding levels. Currently, WIC serves children zero to five years and mothers of children zero to six months. The measure specifies that the costs of providing benefits to mothers of children older than six months will be paid from moneys in the Oregon Health Authority Fund.

OHA estimates the fiscal impact of this bill to be \$21,048,343 General Fund and 4 positions (1.27 FTE) for the 18 months of the 2019-21 biennium; and \$28,484,473 General Fund and 3 positions (1.50 FTE) for the 2021-23 biennium. Included in the estimated Services and Supplies costs for the 2019-21 biennium is \$56,826 of one-time implementation costs to cover a communications media campaign. Personal Services costs include:

- One Operations and Policy Analyst 2 position (0.13 FTE) to work as a project coordinator overseeing the expansion. This is a Limited Duration position for the 2019-21 biennium.
- One Fiscal Analyst 1 position (0.38 FTE) to track project expenses and report to the United States Department of Agriculture.
- One Research Analyst 2 position (0.38 FTE) to monitor data and project evaluation.
- One Public Health Educator 2 position (0.38 FTE) to oversee education and training development and outreach.

Special Payments expenditures assume that the program expansion will encompass 17,763 women, based on estimates as of February 2019 WIC program caseload. The projected 18-month cost per mother for 2019-21 is \$1,170.36, resulting in an estimated Special Payments cost of \$20,789,105. The projected 24-month cost per child for 2021-23 is \$1,583.02, resulting in an estimated Special Payments costs of \$28,119,184.

OHA reports that its Office of Information Services (OIS) can implement this expansion with minor changes to the WIC administration system application. This work can be carried out using existing staff and resources.