

## HB 2639 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Human Services and Housing

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**Action Date:** 04/01/19

**Action:** Do pass with amendments  
and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 8-0-1-0

**Yeas:** 8 - Helt, Meek, Mitchell, Noble, Sanchez, Schouten, Williams, Zika

**Exc:** 1 - Keny-Guyer

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Amie FenderSosa, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 1/30, 2/27, 4/1

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands eligibility for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) for children five years of age or older who have not yet begun attending school per the compulsory attendance requirements in ORS 339.010. Requires costs to be paid using state funds.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Number of children and mothers served by WIC
- Food insecurity in African-American, Lantinx, and Native American communities
- Health issues of children who experience malnutrition
- Eligibility for WIC

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Modifies the definition of "children," for the purpose of this measure, to mean those who begin attending school per attendance requirements in ORS 339.010.

#### BACKGROUND:

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program is administered by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). Federal grants through the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) provide supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk. WIC was established as a permanent program in 1974. WIC is not an entitlement program as Congress does not set aside funds to allow every eligible individual to participate in the program; WIC is a Federal grant program for which Congress authorizes a specific amount of funds each year.

House Bill 2639-A expands eligibility for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).