

HB 3170 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

Action Date: 04/01/19

Action: Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

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

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Meeting Dates: 3/27, 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$286,888 from General Fund to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) for the Senior Farm Direct Nutrition Program. Appropriates \$1,227,421 from General Fund to OHA for the Women, Infants and Children Farm Direct Nutrition Program. Directs OHA to include appropriations for these programs in its biennial agency request budgets. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Difficult for young children to focus on studies when hungry
- Intent of bill to give children and families access to healthy produce and other foods
- Supports small family farms that depend on being able to sell to individuals
- Children being able to observe how produce is grown
- Number of seniors who would not have access to vouchers under Governor's current budget
- Amount that people usually receive in vouchers

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Senior Farm Direct Nutrition Program, funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, provides low-income, eligible seniors with checks that can be used to purchase fresh, locally grown fruit, vegetables, and cut herbs. The checks can only be used at approved farm stands and farmers' markets. The program is intended to improve nutrition access for Oregon seniors and support local Oregon farmers. To be eligible for the program, seniors must meet all of the following criteria: 1) Be at least 62 years old by April 1 of the current year; 2) Be receiving either Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits or Medicaid on April 1 of the current year; 3) Have income below 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level in the current year; and 4) Be living in a situation where food is not provided for them, such as in their own home or apartment.

House Bill 3170 appropriates moneys from General Fund to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) for the Senior Farm Direct Nutrition Program and the Women, Infants and Children Farm Direct Nutrition Program.