

HB 2626 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

Action Date: 04/08/19

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

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Helt, Keny-Guyer, Meek, Mitchell, Noble, Sanchez, Schouten, Williams, Zika

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 1/30, 2/27, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands eligibility for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) to include mothers of children up to 12 months old. Requires costs of the program for children older than six months to be paid using state funds.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Number of children and mothers served by WIC
- Food insecurity in African-American, Lantix, and Native American Communities
- Health issue of children who experience malnutrition
- Eligibility for WIC

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Changes definition of "children" in regard to measure to mean those up to 12 months of age. Clarifies that the cost of providing benefits under the program are to "mothers of" children older than six months.

BACKGROUND:

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) in Oregon is administered by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). Federal grants through the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service 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.