

HB 2327 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

Prepared By: Oliver Droppers, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Department of Human Services to study and submit recommendations to increase access to long term care for Oregon residents no later than September 15, 2022.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 **Replaces the measure.** Defines terms. Requires Department of Human Services (DHS) in collaboration with Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to adopt rules creating requirements for long term care facilities to respond to public health emergencies. Specifies the following requirements: availability, use, and cleaning of personal protective equipment (PPE); screening residents for infectious diseases; evacuation plans; staff training; updating and publicly disseminating emergency and rapid response plan(s); best practices to reduce air pollutants; and isolation prevention plans including face-to-face, virtual, verbal, or auditory contact. Specifies residents may not be required to engage in virtual contact or communication. Specifies protections for residents with a disability or cognitive limitations. Requires DHS and OHA to adopt rules specifying acquisition and maintenance of specified technological equipment, PPE, and a backup power source. Requires DHS to provide funding to providers to purchase specified equipment. Directs DHS to establish Long Term Care Emergency Preparedness and Response Team (Team) consisting of 16 members. Specifies membership and duties of Team. Requires DHS to develop or make available training for local public health authorities to understand unique needs of long term care facilities. Allows DHS to conduct virtual inspections of a long term care facility during a public health emergency. Requires DHS to develop best practices and protocols to respond to disease outbreaks in facilities. Adds memory care facilities to list of residential facilities DHS is authorized to inspect; allows DHS, OHA, or an authorized representative to conduct a virtual inspection during a public health emergency.

BACKGROUND:

According to the United States Census Bureau, the population age 65 and over increased from 37.2 million in 2006 to 49.2 million in 2016 (a 33 percent increase) and is projected to almost double to 98 million in 2060. With the projected growth of the older population, the demand for long term care (LTC), including nursing homes and assisted living facilities, is expected to increase.

Long term care facilities provide care and assistance for individuals who need help with activities of daily living, medication, and personal care. The Department of Human Services (DHS) licenses long term care facilities. The Oregon Health Authority manages the state's public health functions from disease prevention and control, to food safety and public health inspections. According to the DHS, nursing, residential care, and memory care facilities and assisting living facilities are at high risk for a COVID-19 outbreak due to serving vulnerable populations and their congregate nature. During the COVID-19 pandemic, 31,000 residents living in more than 680 facilities with approximately 29,000 staff were effected by federal and state guidance and executive orders restricting visitation among residents and family members in an effort to prevent additional infections.

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