

HB 2397 -1, -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/3, 3/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Senior Emergency Medical Services Innovation Program in the Department of Human Services (DHS) to fund and monitor pilot projects effecting emergency care for seniors as specified, using monies in the Quality Care Fund. Establishes the Senior Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (the Council), to advise and make recommendations to DHS. Specifies composition and duties of Council, staffed by DHS. Requires report from DHS to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the legislature. Prohibits local governing bodies from enforcing any local ordinance or resolution effecting residents of long term or residential care facilities regulated by DHS. Prohibits local governing bodies from assessing fees or imposing other requirements only on long term or residential care facilities. Provides for certain exceptions. Sunsets January 2, 2027.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Local ordinances and fees specifically applicable to long term care facilities
- Long term care facilities acting as guardians for individuals in specific situations
- Distinctions between different types of long term facilities and impacts from proposed measure
- Expanding council membership to represent families of residents of long term facilities

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

- 1 Mandates the Council to include one member representing private emergency medical services providers.
- 2 Mandates the Council to include a one more member who is either a family member of a resident of a long term care facility or residential care facility, a caregiver in a long term care facility or residential care facility; or a member or representative of a group that advocates for seniors residing in long term care facilities or residential care facilities.

BACKGROUND:

Long-term care facilities are defined as providing medical services, including skilled nursing and treatment for two or more unrelated patients. Residential care facilities are defined as providing care in one or more buildings on contiguous properties for six or more socially dependent individuals or individuals with physical disabilities; or for fewer than six socially dependent individuals or individuals with physical disabilities if the purpose of the facility is to serve individuals with co-occurring behavioral health needs who are more appropriately served in smaller settings. The number of aging residents in these facilities is increasing.

House Bill 2397 creates the Senior Emergency Medical Services Innovation Program and a corresponding advisory body, the Senior Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council, to support pilot projects concerned with residents who are aging in long term and residential care facilities, and report to the legislature. The measure also prohibits local governing bodies from taking local action effecting long term or residential care facilities within their jurisdictions that are already regulated by DHS, with some exceptions. Provisions of the measure sunset January 2, 2027.