

HB 2107 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Ruiz

House Committee On Human Services

Action Date: 03/10/21

Action: Do Pass.

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Leif, Noble, Owens, Ruiz, Sanchez, Schouten, Williams

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/8, 3/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Mandates that a notice of garnishment for overpayment of certain assistance issued by the Department of Human Services (DHS) or Oregon Health Authority (OHA) include the name of the person issuing the notice, but not their signature. Requires county supervising a defendant as specified to notify DHS or OHA for purposes of suspending assistance as appropriate.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Electronic signature protocol adoption for increased transparency
- Government transparency in recuperation of fund
- Inmate lists by county availability and distribution process

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Individuals convicted of crimes may be ordered into the custody of the Department of Corrections (usually for more serious matters that may involve a prison term) or counties (usually for less serious matters that may involve a jail term). Untimely suspensions of publicly funded benefits during a person's incarceration can lead to overpayments and subsequent recovery efforts which could potentially be avoided with more timely notifications. Counties are currently required to inform the Employment Department when defendants are committed under their authority, for purposes of making eligibility determinations for unemployment insurance.

House Bill 2107 adds similar notification requirements for counties to inform the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) of defendants under their supervision, so that publicly funded benefits may be suspended when appropriate. The measure also provides for notices of garnishment for overpayment of assistance by DHS and OHA to include the name of the person issuing the notice, but not their signature; the same as overpayment notices that issue from the Department of Revenue (DOR).