

HB 2119 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Schouten

House Committee On Human Services

Action Date: 03/24/21

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 5-0-2-0

Yeas: 5 - Leif, Ruiz, Sanchez, Schouten, Williams

Exc: 2 - Noble, Owens

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Iva Sokolovska, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/24, 3/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Transfers the duties, functions and authority over the 2-1-1 system from the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to the Department of Human Services (DHS). Directs DHS to consult with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to administer and manage the 2-1-1 system.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Length of transition; ensuring transition does not affect consumers

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Makes additional technical changes. Repeals provisions governing OEM contract with a 2-1-1 system facilitator. Replaces other references to a system facilitator with "provider." Repeals corresponding accounting structure.

BACKGROUND:

Since 2000, the Federal Communications Commission has designated "211" as an information and referral service line. In many states, by dialing 2-1-1, those in need of assistance can be referred, and sometimes connected, to appropriate agencies and community-based health and human services organizations. A caller can be directed to a variety of services including: physical and mental health resources, work support, access to services in non-English languages, support for older persons and persons with disabilities, children, youth and family supports, and suicide prevention. In 2005, the responsibility for a federally funded 2-1-1 system was placed with the Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM), but federal funds were never made available and OEM never administered the system.

Oregon's 2-1-1 system is operated by 211info, a nonprofit organization, since 2004. The Department of Human Services (DHS) reports that it has several contracts with 211info so that they can connect Oregonians with resources and help them access information about DHS programs and services.

House Bill 2119 A transfers responsibility for administration of the 2-1-1 system from OEM to DHS and enables DHS to receive federal funds intended for the 2-1-1 system.