The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor’s brief statement of the essential features of the measure as introduced.

Requires Department of Human Services to reimburse cost of care provided in residential training facilities and residential training homes in amounts sufficient to allow facilities and homes to pay direct support professional 150 percent of state minimum wage.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT
Relating to direct support professionals; and declaring an emergency.

Whereas direct support professionals provide crucial supports to adults and children experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities, including managing medical needs, challenging behaviors, personal hygiene and supporting the adults in maintaining employment and making real connections in the community; and

Whereas the COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated that direct support professionals are more valuable than ever yet continue to struggle with low wages, threatening their economic security and job stability; and

Whereas direct support professionals have been on the front line of the COVID-10 crisis, as essential as ever, and they deserve a significant investment in their jobs in 2021; and

Whereas national data shows that direct support professionals are a growing and diverse workforce in which 87 percent are women, 59 percent are people of color and 27 percent are immigrants; and

Whereas direct support professionals face persistently low wages without inflation adjusted increases and many receive wages that are at or slightly above the state minimum wage; and

Whereas the incredibly dedicated direct support professionals are not state employees, though they are funded almost entirely by state moneys, and need a significant investment by the Legislative Assembly so they can continue to provide support to Oregonians experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities; now, therefore,

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:
(a) “Direct support professional” means an employee of a residential training facility or a residential training home that provides care and support to the residents of the facility or home.
(b) “Medical assistance” has the meaning given that term in ORS 414.025.
(c) “Residential training facility” and “residential training home” have the meaning given those terms in ORS 443.400.

(2) The Department of Human Services shall reimburse residential training facilities and residential training homes for the cost of care provided to medical assistance recipients in
amounts sufficient to allow the facilities and homes to pay to their direct support professionals wages that average at least 150 percent of the minimum wage established in ORS 653.025 (2) as adjusted for inflation under ORS 653.025 (5).

SECTION 2. This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect on its passage.