

HB 2500 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 1/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Home Care Commission to adopt rules that require reimbursement of mileage expenses for home care workers, personal support workers, and other direct support professionals who commute more than 15 miles each way from their residences to those of their clients. Provides that mileage reimbursement be subject to collective bargaining agreement. Requires that commission require mileage reimbursement when specified workers.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Home Care Commission is a constitutionally mandated, independent public commission, established by the passage of Measure 99 (2000), that is responsible for overseeing the statewide provision of in-home care services for elderly adults and people with disabilities. The commission, acting through the Department of Human Services, regulates minimum qualification standards, provides training opportunities, and maintains a centralized registry of qualified in-home care workers. Current law requires the commission to operate a program that allows individuals through the registry, to hire the services of in-home care workers who are employed and paid by the commission. The program sets standard payment rates for workers and charges consumers for the cost of employing the workers and administering the program.

House Bill 2500 requires the Home Care Commission to provide mileage reimbursement for home care workers, personal support workers, and other direct support professionals employed by the commission who travel more than 15 miles each way between their residences and those of their clients.