

## **SB 796 -1, -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **Senate Committee On Health Care**

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**Prepared By:** Daniel Dietz, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/8, 3/8

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Establishes the “Oregon Memory Net” to allow primary care providers to refer patients with cognitive decline or impairment to a memory assessment clinic. Directs the Oregon Department of Human Services to contract with Oregon’s designated Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center to subcontract with a memory assessment clinic outside of the Portland metropolitan area. Appropriates funds. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

*REVENUE: No revenue impact*

*FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued*

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Availability of memory care specialists
- Wait time for care

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-1 Directs the Department of Human Services to provide a report to the Legislative Assembly at least biennially including information about communities served by memory assessment clinics and recommendations on how best to expand the Oregon Memory Net statewide.

-2 Establishes the Oregon Memory Net as a pilot project. Directs the Department of Human Services to report to interim committees of the Legislative Assembly, no later than October 31, 2024, the results of the pilot project, including recommendations on whether to expand the Oregon Memory Net statewide. Specifies and appropriation of \$800,000 and sunsets the program on June 30, 2025. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Alzheimer’s disease is a brain disorder that slowly destroys memory and thinking skills and, eventually, the ability to carry out the simplest tasks. People with Alzheimer’s also experience changes in behavior and personality. According to the National Institute on Aging, more than 6 million Americans, many of them age 65 and older, are estimated to have Alzheimer’s disease. The National Alzheimer’s Association reports approximately 69,000 Oregonians aged 65 and older are living with the disease (2020).

The Portland campus of Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU) is home to Oregon’s federally funded Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center (Center). The Center applies research to improve diagnosis and care for people with Alzheimer’s Disease.

SB 796 directs the Oregon Department of Human Services and the OHSU Alzheimer Disease Research Center to subcontract with a memory assessment clinic outside of the Portland area.