

SB 92 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

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Meeting Dates: 1/23, 3/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Department of Human Services to study strategies to ensure that recipients of public benefits who are eligible to serve on boards or commissions can be compensated for their service without losing their benefit eligibility. Requires agency report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2024. Sunsets January 2, 2025.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- House Bill 2992 (2021) implementation effects
- Pre-paid gift card options
- Medicaid support services for individuals with disabilities
- Number of Oregonians affected by House Bill 2992 (2021)

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Replaces the measure. Directs the Department of Human Services to establish a liaison position to facilitate the participation of individuals who are appointed to boards, commissions or other groups established by statute or convened by DHS or the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and specifies policy areas on which liaison will advise OHA and DHS. Directs the liaison to research additional means of facilitating participation of individuals on boards, commissions and advisory groups.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Legislature passed bill House Bill 2992 (2021) which increased the amount of compensation (from \$30 to \$155 per meeting) to members of State Boards and Commissions. The measure took effect in September 2021. During the June 3, 2022 meeting of the Senate Interim Committee On Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery, the committee heard testimony from the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, the Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Office of Recovery and Resilience in the Oregon Health Authority, the Self-Sufficiency Programs in the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS), and the Oregon Organization of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (O4AD) about the implementation consequences of the measure. For public benefits-eligible participants on State Boards and Commissions, if these stipends are considered as taxable income, it can lead to loss of eligibility for public benefits.

Senate Bill 92 requires ODHS to study ways for benefits eligible participants on State Boards or Commissions to continue receiving stipends for their services without losing the eligibility for public benefits and report the findings to the Oregon Legislative Assembly.