

## SB 99 -4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Human Services

---

**Prepared By:** Iva Sokolovska, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/20, 4/3

---

#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Human Services to study processes for delivering services to aging adults and report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2024. Sunsets January 2, 2025.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Stakeholder-led survey by Oregon Department of Human Services in 2021 results
- Concerns with discrimination and access to services for the Oregon LGBTQIA2S+ older adults community in long-term care
- Other states that have established similar laws to improve access to services for LGBTQIA2S+ Older Adults
- Advisory committee intent and authority
- Commission on LGBTQIA2S+ Older Adults scope, membership, confirming of positions, age requirements for agency representatives
- Definition and intent of terms in Bill of Rights for LGBTQIA2S+
- Provider compliance and training requirements applicability

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-4

Replaces the measure. Establishes the Commission on LGBTQIA2S+ Older Adults in the Department of Human Services (DHS), specifies its duties and intent. Specifies Commission membership appointment process, membership eligibility, and member terms of office. Permits members to be reimbursed for cost and expenses. Specifies manners in which the Commission reports on its activities, findings, and recommendations. Permits the Commission to establish advisory or technical committees to provide aid and advice. Establishes the Bill of Rights for LGBTQIA2S+ Older Adult Residents of Long Term and Community-Based Care Facilities.

#### BACKGROUND:

Formal and informal support systems become increasingly important to maintain independence as people age and older adults are the fastest growing segment of the [US population](#). Older adults who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ) frequently [face barriers when attempting to access health and social services](#). In 2016, about 69 percent of the US population aged 85 and over had at least one type of disability, compared with just 9 percent of the population under the age of 65 ([American Community Survey Reports, 2016](#)). In 26 Oregon counties, 37.0 - 45.9 percent of the population aged 65 and over has a disability ([2013-2017 Census data](#)) and in 4 counties that percent was over 46. In Oregon, about 32 percent of the population in 2021 was 65 years old or older and had a disability, and about 3.4 percent of Oregonians aged 55 and older identify as lesbian, gay, and bisexual, which includes 3.2 percent of women and 3.8 percent of men ([2021 Oregon LGBTQ+ older adult report](#)). The [Oregon LGBTQ+ Older Adult Survey](#) was conducted in 2021 and found that 50% of people aged 55 and older who identify as LGBTQ+ have [service needs that are not met](#). The most common challenges reported in accessing services included difficulty in applying or fear of not meeting qualifications, high costs, services

---

*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*

**SB 99 -4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

experienced or perceived as not being LGBTQ+ inclusive, and lack of availability and difficulty locating and accessing services.

Senate Bill 99 establishes the Commission on LGBTQIA2S+ Older Adults and the Bill of Rights for LGBTQIA2S+ older adult residents of long term care facilities.

PRELIMINARY