

**SB 796 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Health Care**

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**Action Date:** 03/08/23

**Action:** Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

**Vote:** 5-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 5 - Bonham, Campos, Gorsek, Hayden, Patterson

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**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” pilot project to create a system of referral for patients with cognitive decline or impairment to be screened at 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. 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 an appropriation of \$800,000 and sunsets the program on June 30, 2025. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Prevalence of cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's Disease
- Need for and availability of memory care specialists

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Establishes the program as a pilot project with a sunset date and specifies an appropriation of \$800,000.

**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 six 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 Science 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.

Senate Bill 796 A establishes the Oregon Memory Net as a pilot project, directs the OHSU Alzheimer's Disease Research Center to subcontract with a memory assessment clinic outside of the Portland area, and requires the Oregon Department of Human Services to study effectiveness of the project and to report back to relevant committees of the Legislative Assembly.