House Bill 2738

Sponsored by Representative VALDERRAMA (at the request of Daniel Hauser) (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure as introduced.

Requires Department of Human Services to study the feasibility of establishing guaranteed income program in this state. Directs department to submit findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to human services not later than September 15, 2024.

Sunsets January 2, 2025.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to antipoverty programs.

Whereas before the pandemic, more than two in five Oregonians lacked the resources needed to meet their basic needs; and

Whereas for many Oregonians, making ends meet has only gotten harder in recent years; and

Whereas a Guaranteed Income (GI) program, targeted to those who need it most, would establish a floor beneath which no one could fall; and

Whereas currently there are more than 100 GI pilot projects across the country; and

Whereas studies have found that well-crafted GI programs improve economic security, can boost employment and have a long list of positive health outcomes for participants and their families; and

Whereas states have started to investigate what it would take to move beyond pilots and establish state-level policies; and

Whereas, while there are some pilot projects underway, in Oregon there has yet to be an effort to more fully understand what a state-level policy would look like and the impacts it would have on Oregonians struggling to get by; now, therefore,

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section, “guaranteed income program” means a program that provides an unrestricted and unconditional cash payment to individuals who are members of a targeted population to meet basic needs and provide financial stability.

(2) The Department of Human Services shall study the feasibility of establishing a guaranteed income program in this state that would ensure that households have income sufficient to meet their basic needs for food, rent, clothing, utilities and transportation.

(3) The department shall study the results of pilot programs in other states that operate on the premise of a guaranteed income program and make recommendations for the implementation of a guaranteed income program in this state. The department may convene an advisory committee consisting of individuals with expertise in antipoverty programs. The department may contract with a third party to facilitate the study or to gather data and make initial findings.

(4) The department shall submit a report of its findings and conclusions in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, including recommendations for legislation, to the interim commit-
tees of the Legislative Assembly related to human services no later than September 15, 2024.

SECTION 2. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
ated to the Department of Human Services, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of
the General Fund, the amount of $______, which may be expended on conducting the study
under section 1 of this 2023 Act.

SECTION 3. Section 1 of this 2023 Act is repealed on January 2, 2025.