A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to public benefits.

SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Human Services shall establish a liaison position within the department to facilitate the participation of individuals who are appointed to boards, commissions or other groups established by statute or convened by the department or the Oregon Health Authority to advise the agencies on policy matters, by:

(a) Making or assisting in making transportation arrangements for attending meetings;
(b) Providing assistance in accessing technology to enable the individual to participate virtually in meetings, including access to devices and to the Internet;
(c) Arranging for interpreters at meetings;
(d) Providing scheduling assistance, such as assistance with responding to electronic meeting invitations; or
(e) Providing gift cards as an option for compensation, if the gift card is specific to an establishment, not redeemable for cash, issued for a specific sum and will not affect the participant’s receipt of public benefits, such as gift cards for:
   (A) Groceries;
   (B) Gasoline or fuel;
   (C) Restaurants; or
   (D) Transportation, such as ride shares or public transportation.

(2) The liaison shall research additional means of facilitating participation of individuals on boards, commissions and advisory groups, in addition to those specified in subsection (1) of this section, in order to offer choices tailored to each individual’s needs.

NOTE: Matter in boldfaced type in an amended section is new; matter [italic and bracketed] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in boldfaced type.