## **Legislative Summary Report**

# **Human Services**



This Legislative Summary Report highlights Human Services policy measures that received a public hearing in a policy committee during the **2025** regular legislative session. The report is organized by subtopics and includes the measure number; the measure status: enacted [ $\checkmark$ ] or not enacted [ $\chi$ ]; and a brief description of the measure.

## **Human Services Subtopics:**

- Assistance Programs
- Child Welfare
- Individuals with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities

- Older Adults & Individuals with Physical Disabilities
- Other
- System of Care

# **Assistance Programs**

- SB 64 The measure directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to request a waiver from the United States Department of Agriculture that would prevent monthly advance payments of the dependent care tax credit from impacting eligibility determinations for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. It requires DHS to report annually on the status of the waiver request to the Legislative Assembly.
- The measure would have appropriated \$6 million from the General Fund to the Department of Administrative Services for distribution to Marion-Polk Food Share, Inc., for a capital expansion project.
- SB 611 A The measure would have established the Food for All Oregonians program in the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide nutrition assistance benefits to individuals who would be eligible for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program but for their immigration status.
- The measure would have established the Oregon Food Bank Audit Committee as a joint committee of the Legislative Assembly. It would have required the committee to conduct an audit of the Oregon Food Bank's financial transactions between December 1, 2021, and January 1, 2025, identify the transactions that were related to political activity, and report to the Legislative Assembly by November 15, 2025.

HB 2374 A

X

The measure would have established the CARE Program within the Youth Development Division (YDD) to support families in improving school attendance and academic success and to assist families in reducing barriers that contribute to school absences and lack of basic needs. It would have directed YDD to award grants to counties or local entities to implement local CARE programs.

**Note:** This measure is cross-listed in the Summary of Legislation Summary Report on Education.

HB 2907

The measure would have created an income tax credit for taxpayers who invest more than \$20,000 in a food bank, community garden, or community food resource in a tax year.

HB 2991 A

The measure would have appropriated \$5 million from the General Fund to the Department of Human Services (DHS) for the grant program for organizations that provide low-income individuals with education about tax benefits and assistance in filing tax returns and navigating the tax system.

HB 3079

The measure would have required the Department of Human Services (DHS) to update its estimate of the additional funding needed to implement or extend youth experiencing homelessness programs. It would have directed DHS and the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department (OHCS) to study options for allocating 30 percent of the portion of their budgets related to housing and homelessness services for the 2027-2029 biennium toward reducing the number of youth aging into adult homelessness.

HB 3201 A

The measure would have directed the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to implement policies to increase access to healthy and culturally relevant foods for children in child care. It would have increased the reimbursement rate for eligible meals and snacks served under the federal Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) by 10 cents as compared to the federal reimbursement rate, instructed ODE to equalize reimbursement rates across CACFP tier classifications, and created a supplemental fund to support the change. The measure would have appropriated \$250,000 from the General Fund for distribution to the Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service to create culturally specific menus for the CACFP.

**Note:** This measure is cross-listed in the Summary of Legislation Summary Report on Early Childhood.

HB 3356

X

The measure would have appropriated \$1,023,235 General Fund to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) for distribution to South Coast Business Employment Corporation to provide meals to elderly individuals.



HB 3970

The measure expands eligibility for emergency housing assistance for individuals and families with school-aged children who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless to include those who are pregnant or have children between the ages of birth and five.

**Note:** This measure is cross-listed in the Summary of Legislation Summary Report on Housing, Development, and Homelessness.

### **Child Welfare**

SB 135



The measure requires that certain multidisciplinary and review teams include a representative of a local CASA volunteer program, if available.

SB 138 A



The measure would have allowed, rather than required, the Department of Human Services to make a website for reporting instances of child abuse.

**SB 730** 



The measure would have created additional requirements for the Department of Human Services (DHS) to certify eligibility for adoptive parents or guardians who receive subsidy payments and would have allowed DHS to redirect payments to other persons or an adopted child under certain circumstances. It would have created requirements for a court to permit contact between a child or ward and their sibling if it was in their best interest. It would have authorized DHS to disclose child welfare records to a minor child with a legal parent's consent.

**SB 736** 



The measure would have created an exception from provisions regarding investigations of suspected abuse of a child in care if the suspected abuse was committed by the child's parent. It would have required the Department of Human Services to include, in written materials provided during a child abuse investigation, a disclosure that the representative of the department is not an attorney and cannot provide legal advice to a parent or guardian.

**Note:** Vetoed by Governor Tina Kotek – see the veto letter for SB 736.

SB 740



The measure would have directed the Department of Human Services to establish and administer the Youth Support and Repayment Grant Program to issue grant payments to individuals from whom benefit payments were seized by the state

SB 741



The measure requires the Department of Human Services to report each evennumbered year to interim legislative committees about compensation provided to foster homes and proctor foster homes beginning on July 1, 2026.



- The measure would have required that an interview conducted by the Department of Human Services or law enforcement with an alleged perpetrator in a suspected child abuse investigation be electronically recorded.
- SB 815

  The measure sets criteria for the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) to be a party to juvenile dependency court proceedings. It specifies that DHS is a party to the proceedings when the department is the petitioner, has taken the child into protective custody, has been granted temporary custody of the child, or the child has been committed to the legal custody of DHS. The measure specifies that a child-caring agency is a party in the proceedings if it has temporary custody of the child.
- SB 875 The measure would have made modifications to the Oregon Foster Children's Bill of Rights and the Oregon Foster Care Sibling Bill of Rights. It would have allowed a court to order that contact between a foster child and their sibling be limited or prohibited to ensure safe and appropriate contact, and it would have modified the definition of a child in care.

**Note:** Vetoed by Governor Tina Kotek – see the veto letter for SB 875.

- SB 911 A The measure would have required the Department of Human Services to adopt rules that established a uniform payment methodology for providers of independent living program transition services for foster children and specified that the methodology consider the number of hours of in-home services provided, consider the amount of time spent on outreach to foster children who are difficult to reach, and ensure adequate capacity and staffing levels to provide services based on average monthly population served.
- The measure would have specified the duties of a child's parent or guardian to protect a child from abuse by another person and to provide for a child's basic needs, specified the actions that constitute chronic or extreme neglect of a child, and modified the statutory definitions of abuse of a child and abuse of a child in care to incorporate the provisions.
- SB 915 A

  The measure would have directed the Department of Human Services to ensure that the assessment and investigation of reports of child abuse are conducted by the program that specializes in training, investigations, and safety when the report involves a child residing with a foster family or in a certified foster home, if the subject of the investigation is not the child's parent.
- SB 937 The measure would have required the Department of Human Services to distribute \$350,000 annually to the Oregon Foster Youth Connection for foster youth advocacy and support.



- SB 944 The measure removes a requirement that youth residing in independent living facilities pay a portion or all of their housing expenses and other support costs. It authorizes the Department of Human Services to exempt an individual who was placed in a foster or adoptive home before turning 18 from a criminal records check conducted prior to a subsequent placement in the home.
- The measure directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to permanently procure, distribute, and maintain an inventory of appropriate carriers for child welfare case workers to use when transporting the personal effects of a foster child. It prohibits DHS from using trash bags to transport a foster child's personal effects and specifies additional requirements for DHS to include in its annual report to the Legislative Assembly regarding the department's transportation of the personal effects of foster children.
- SB 1063 The measure would have directed the Department of Human Services to study options for establishing a grant program to provide resources, including relocation assistance, to parents of children who have been victims of sex abuse.
- The measure would have specified requirements for the Department of Human Services (DHS) to admit a child in its care or custody in an inpatient or residential facility for treatment, including additional requirements for out-of-state treatment and exceptions for long-term residential placements.

**Note:** This measure is cross-listed in the Summary of Legislation Summary Report on Behavioral Health.

The measure would have modified the laws governing the prohibited and allowable use of restraint and involuntary seclusion in public education programs and regulated entities that provide care for children, including secure transportation providers. It would have specified the actions that constitute abuse or neglect of a child in care and would have modified the process for the Department of Human Services (DHS) to investigate reports of abuse and neglect. It would have modified DHS's authority to take regulatory actions and impose civil penalties on child-caring entities, and it would have specified exceptions to laws regulating out-of-state placements of children in care.

**Note:** This measure is cross-listed in the Summary of Legislation Summary Report on Behavioral Health.

The measure would have moved the office of the Children's Advocate from the Department of Human Services (DHS) to the office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman as an independent state agency and expanded the authority of the Children's Advocate. It would have transferred oversight of Critical Incident Review Teams from DHS to the Children's Advocate and established the Children's Advocacy Advisory Board.



HB 2582

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The measure removes the references to the National CASA Association in statute. It requires that statewide and local entities that coordinate and provide court appointed special advocate (CASA) services follow nationally recognized CASA standards, rather than requiring the entities to be affiliated with the National CASA Association.

HB 3003

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The measure requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to include additional data in its biennial report on child welfare and requires that data in the report be disaggregated by race.

HB 3835 B



The measure would have modified laws related to the use of restraint and seclusion on children in care settings. The measure would have defined abusive restraint and abusive seclusion, outlined when restraint or seclusion may be used, and established procedures for investigating instances of abusive restraint or seclusion. It would have modified provisions regarding investigations of child abuse in certain settings and changed the definition of abuse. The measure would have modified the regulatory and enforcement authority of the Department of Human Services (DHS), allowed DHS to place children in out-of-state agencies under certain circumstances, and exempted secure medical transport from certain licensing requirements. The measure would have directed DHS to submit quarterly narrative reports to the System of Care Advisory Council (SOCAC), required SOCAC to submit reports to the Legislative Assembly, and made clarifying and conforming amendments.

**Note:** This measure is cross-listed in the Summary of Legislation Summary Report on Behavioral Health.

## Individuals with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities

SB 133 A



The measure would have required the Department of Human Services to make annual inflation adjustments to payments made to contracted provider agencies that provide services for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

SB 136



The measure requires the Department of Human Services to revoke the license, certificate, or endorsement of certain providers of services or residential care for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities under certain circumstances. The measure further authorizes the department to revoke, suspend, or impose conditions on the license, certificate, or endorsement of a provider if it finds that there is a risk to the health, safety, rights, or welfare of individuals served.



SB 538 A

The measure would have prohibited the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) from restricting the number of care attendant service hours provided by a parent caregiver for children with very high medical and behavioral health needs.

**Note:** This measure is cross-listed in the Summary of Legislation Summary Report on Health Care.

SB 725

The measure would have directed the Department of Human Services to adopt rules that would require community developmental disabilities programs and service support brokerages to maintain a 30-to-1 staffing ratio of service coordinators or personal agents to individuals served.

SB 810

The measure directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Department of Education (ODE) to appoint statewide and regional Employment First advisory committees to review employment outcome data and make recommendations to DHS regarding opportunities for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD) to obtain competitive integrated employment (CIE). It requires DHS to ensure that employment services and vocational rehabilitation are designed to help individuals obtain CIE and do not take place in sheltered work settings. It directs DHS to collaborate with other state agencies to establish a State as Model Employer program and modifies statutory definitions and provisions relating to employment and vocational services for individuals with IDD.

HB 2150 A

The measure would have required the Department of Human Services (DHS) to annually adjust payments to provider agencies that provide services to individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DDs) based on inflation.

HB 3168

X

The measure would have directed the Department of Human Services (DHS) to require provider agencies that employ direct support professionals to implement enhanced staffing ratios for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities residing in residential training facilities and homes when the individual requires specific staffing ratios, or when the agency receives an exceptional service rate for the care of the individual. The measure would have required residential training homes or facilities that serve a high-needs resident to provide a staff safety plan to DHS.



# Older Adults & Individuals with Physical Disabilities

SB 20 The measure would have required the Department of Human Services to provide medical assistance to employed individuals with medically improved disabilities regardless of their income or resources.

**Note:** This measure is cross-listed in the Summary of Legislation Summary Report on Health Care.

- SB 34 A The measure would have required the Department of Human Services to study, report to the legislature, and implement policies related to regulation and ownership of long term care facilities. The measure would have required the department to publish information about facility ownership on a public-facing website. It also would have required a facility to request approval from the department before changing the facility's ownership and management.
- The measure would have established the Task Force on the Recruitment and Retention of Case Managers and Adult Protective Services Workers, consisting of specified members, and directed the task force to study and make recommendations on the barriers and best practices to recruit and retain case managers and adult protective services workers who serve consumers of Medicaid-funded long term care services.
- SB 228 The measure establishes the right of a resident of a memory care facility to organize and participate in an independent family council. It specifies requirements for a facility if a council is formed and prohibits a facility from interfering in a council's formation.
- SB 283 A The measure would have directed the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) to reimburse clinical education at long-term, residential, memory care, and assisted living facilities, with requirements for clinical placements and training. It would have directed the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to reimburse hospitals participating in a labor-management training trust and federally qualified health centers for workforce initiatives, and to establish a task force within the agency to review the sustainability of the Oregon Essential Workforce Health Care Program.

**Note:** This measure is cross-listed in the Summary of Legislation Summary Report on Health Care.



SB 296

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The measure directs the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to create a dashboard to improve timeframes for eligibility determinations for long term services and supports (LTSS), to expand medical assistance coverage for skilled nursing, and to study the regulatory frameworks for facilities that care for people with complex health or behavioral health needs.

**Note:** This measure is cross-listed in the Summary of Legislation Summary Report on Health Care.

SB 739

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The measure modifies the requirements and procedures for the Department of Human Services (DHS) to enforce regulations and investigate reported licensing violations and other deficiencies in residential care facilities and memory care facilities. It modifies the processes for DHS and the Oregon Health Authority to inspect and issue licenses for residential facilities and adult foster homes. The measure requires facilities to notify certain persons and entities about regulatory actions and abuse findings and specifies additional requirements for memory care endorsements.

SB 811

X

The measure would have modified the procedures for the Department of Human Services and Oregon Health Authority to process applications, conduct inspections, and issue licenses for residential facilities, adult foster homes, and facilities with memory care endorsements.

Note: Similar provisions amended into SB 739.

SB 1021

X

The measure would have prohibited a continuing care retirement community (CCRC) from making reductions to programs or services that were in place when a resident was admitted. It would have required a CCRC to notify resident councils before making changes to fees, programs, or services.

SB 1029 A

X

The measure would have prohibited the Department of Human Services or Oregon Health Authority from recovering medical assistance payments from a recipient's estate or surviving spouse if the recipient's surviving child provided care for the recipient in their home and has inherited or received legal interest in the home.

**Note:** This measure is cross-listed in the Summary of Legislation Summary Report on Health Care.

SB 1066



The measure extends to January 2, 2029, the exemption for adult foster homes (AFHs) and residential training homes from state building code requirements to install automatic sprinkler systems. It extends the exemption to apply to AFHs and residential training homes that were licensed prior to July 1, 2028.



**Note:** This measure is cross-listed in the Summary of Legislation Summary Report on Health Care.

- The measure would have required the Department of Human Services, when preparing its biennial agency request budget, to prepare accurate caseload forecasts for the older adults and individuals with disabilities served by the department, as well as workload projections that account for specified inputs, and to report any changes requiring budget adjustments during the biennium to the Legislative Assembly.
- The measure modifies a prohibition on per-visit compensation by home health agencies and hospice programs to apply to home health care staff and home hospice care staff, rather than nurses.

**Note:** This measure is cross-listed in the Summary of Legislation Summary Report on Health Care.

- The measure would have established the Task Force on Recruitment and Retention of Case Managers and Adult Protective Service Workers and would have directed the task force to study and make recommendations addressing barriers and best practices to recruit and retain case managers and adult protective services workers.
- The measure would have directed the Department of Human Services (DHS) to restructure its methodology for calculating reimbursement rates for payments to adult foster home providers. The measure would have required that the restructured methodology increase base rates of repayment and utilize an acuity-based payment method.
- The measure modifies the responsibilities of the Senior Emergency Medical Services Innovation Program and Senior Emergency Medical Services Council. It extends the sunset on the program and the prohibition on local government regulation of long-term care facilities or residential care facilities subject to regulation by the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS).

**Note:** This measure is cross-listed in the Summary of Legislation Summary Report on Health Care.



HB 2956 A

X

The measure would have directed the Department of Human Services (DHS) to establish and administer a pilot program to allow up to 30 adult foster homes (AFHs) that provide residential care to older adults or people with physical disabilities to serve seven, rather than five, residents. The measure would have instructed DHS to establish requirements by rule for participating AFHs and to take specified issues into account when approving AFHs for the pilot program. It would have directed DHS to compile data on the pilot program and submit a report to the Legislative Assembly.

HB 3497 A

X

The measure would have required certain state agencies to consider the effects of proposed actions on older adult populations. The measure would have established the Shared Future Oregon Task Force, directed the task force to develop a multisector plan for aging, and required the task force to submit the plan and any recommendations to the Legislative Assembly.

#### **Other**

SB 33

X

The measure would have directed the Department of Human Services to study how it delivers services to children and families and submit a report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2026.

Note: This measure was introduced as a placeholder.

SB 132



The measure would have directed the Department of Human Services to study the demographics of children in Oregon and submit a report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2026.

Note: This measure was introduced as a placeholder.

SB 465



The measure removes the annual limit on matching funds that may accrue in an individual development account (IDA) and replaces it with a maximum limit of \$20,000 in matching funds that may accrue in an IDA.

SB 729



The measure prohibits all public bodies from denying access to mental health services on the basis that an individual of any age has an intellectual or development disability.



HB 2202 A

X

The measure would have clarified language and made a variety of changes throughout Oregon Revises Statutes (ORS) Chapters 414 and 430, including changes that would have impacted the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS), and the nine Federally recognized American Indian Tribes in Oregon, among others.

**Note:** This measure is cross-listed in the Summary of Legislation Summary Report on Behavioral Health.

HB 2573



The measure modifies the responsibilities of the Senior Emergency Medical Services Innovation Program and Senior Emergency Medical Services Council. It extends the sunset on the program and the prohibition on local government regulation of long-term care facilities or residential care facilities subject to regulation by the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS).

**Note:** This measure is cross-listed in the Summary of Legislation Summary Report on Health Care.

HB 2976 A



The measure would have appropriated moneys from the General Fund to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) for distribution to specified nonprofit organizations to support Indigenous language interpretation.

HB 3224



The measure directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to review statutes and rules to identify instances of background checks of subject individuals, study similarities and differences in background checks, and review options to consolidate the number of different background checks. It requires DHS to study methods to ensure a person does not have to undergo an additional background check for certain purposes if they have passed a background check in the previous 12 months. It requires DHS to submit reports on the studies to the Legislative Assembly by specified dates.

HB 3348



The measure makes changes to the administration of the Oregon Child Support Program administered by the Department of Justice, including allowing delivery of certain notifications and legal documents by electronic mail, rather than physical mail, if authorized by the recipient. It allows authorized entities to accept an individual's federal Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) if they do not have a Social Security Number (SSN) for purposes of suspending a license, certificate, permit, or registration due to a child support case. It specifies that a later-issued child support judgment supersedes an earlier judgment that involves the same child and parents. It modifies statutory definitions and makes clarifying changes to program administration.

**Note:** This measure is cross-listed in the Summary of Legislation Summary Report on Civil Law.



HB 3795

The measure would have required the Department of Human Services (DHS) to submit an annual report to the Legislative Assembly on the grant program for organizations that provide low-income individuals with education on tax benefits and assistance with navigating the tax system. The measure would have clarified the scope of a critical incident review team (CIRT) to specify that the team may investigate the death of a child if that child, the child's sibling, or another child living in the household was the subject of a report of suspected abuse or neglect made to DHS or law enforcement within the previous 12 months.

**Note:** Vetoed by Governor Tina Kotek – see the veto letter for HB 3795.

# **System of Care**

X

SB 729

The measure prohibits all public bodies from denying access to mental health services on the basis that an individual of any age has an intellectual or development disability.

SB 794 A

The measure would have expanded the services and supports provided by the Oregon Public Guardian and Conservator to include alternative decisional supports.

SB 909 A

The measure would have required parental income to be disregarded when determining eligibility for medical assistance for individuals under age 18 who require a hospital or nursing home level of care. The measure would have required the Oregon Health Authority to develop level of care criteria for admission to psychiatric facilities for individuals under age 21 and provided for home and community-based services as alternatives to institutional placement for individuals who meet those criteria.

**Note:** This measure is cross-listed in the Summary of Legislation Summary Reports on Health Care and Behavioral Health.

SB 989

The measure would have permitted a child's parent or guardian to admit the child, with or without the child's consent, to an inpatient treatment facility or program licensed by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) or Department of Human Services (DHS) for treatment of a mental, emotional, or behavioral health condition or substance use disorder. The measure would have required DHS and OHA to publish information online about available providers and resources for parents and guardians who are seeking treatment for a minor child.

**Note:** This measure is cross-listed in the Summary of Legislation Summary Report on Behavioral Health.



SB 1065 A The measure would have established the Center for Decision-Making Supports in the Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman and charged the center with coordinating services and information for supported decision-making and other alternatives to guardianship for individuals with disabilities.

The measure would have directed the Oregon Public Guardian and Conservator (OPG) to establish a grant program for community-based and county public guardian programs to serve people with complex care needs who are being discharged from hospitals.

**Note:** This measure is cross-listed in the Summary of Legislation Summary Report on Health Care.

SB 1197 A

The measure would have required respite care services to be provided through the state medical assistance program to children and youth who have complex behavioral health needs or an intellectual or developmental disability and their caregivers. The measure would have required the Oregon Health Authority to support the availability of respite care services and to apply for federal approval to provide respite care services through the state medical assistance program.

**Note:** This measure is cross-listed in the Summary of Legislation Summary Report on Health Care.

The measure would have clarified language and made a variety of changes throughout Oregon Revises Statutes (ORS) Chapters 414 and 430, including changes that would have impacted the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS), and the nine Federally recognized American Indian Tribes in Oregon, among others.

**Note:** This measure is cross-listed in the Summary of Legislation Summary Report on Behavioral Health.

The measure increases the size of the System of Care Advisory Council (SOCAC) from 25 to 29 members and specifies the qualifications of the new members.



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