

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

April 9, 1997 Hearing Room H-170

1:00 P.M. Tapes 69 -70

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Rep. Patricia Milne, Chair

Rep. Jackie Taylor, Vice-Chair

Rep. Richard Devlin

Rep. Jeff Kruse

Rep. Jane Lokan

Rep. Kitty Piercy

Rep. Steve Harper

**MEMBER EXCUSED:**

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Lori A. Long, Administrator

Diane M. Quinones, Administrative Support

**MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:**

HB 2122 Work Session

HB 2713 Public Hearing

HB 2125 Public Hearing

**These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.**

<b>Tape/#</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>TAPE 69, A</b>		
001	Chair Milne	Calls the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m.
003	Chair Milne	Opens a work session on HB 2122.

<b><u>HB 2122 WORK SESSION</u></b>		
005	Lori Long	Committee Administrator, summarizes the bill.
<b>010</b>	<b>Rep. Kruse</b>	<b>MOTION: Moves HB 2122 back to the Speaker without RECOMMENDATION as to passage to be referred to the Joint Ways and Means Committee.</b>
<b>015</b>	<b>Chair Milne</b>	<b>Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.</b>
017	Chair Milne	Closes the work session on HB 2122.
019	Chair Milne	Opens a public hearing on HB 2713.
<b><u>HB 2713 PUBLIC HEARING</u></b>		
033	Jim Neely	Deputy Administrator, Adult and Family Services Division, (AFS), testifies in support of HB 2713.  * offers the full support and cooperation of his office with any joint initiatives that may be undertaken with adjoining state legislatures to combat welfare fraud and abuse
041	Dave Upton	Manager and Chief investigator, AFS Fraud Investigation Unit, submits and presents written testimony in support of HB 2713 ( <b>EXHIBIT A</b> ).  * Falsely obtaining benefits is a Class C felony
137	Rep. Lokan	Asks about the success of the unit.
140	Upton	The unit is very successful.  * all allegations are investigated  * investigations are taken seriously  * program integrity is high within AFS
148	Rep. Lokan	Asks how this bill will assist the unit further.
152	Upton	* The unit is doing everything it currently can to detect and prevent fraud.  * The office is in the process of improving efficiency at all times.  * Meetings and communication with other states are ongoing.
163	Rep.	Asks about the working relationships of the legislative assemblies of

	Kruse	Oregon, Wahsington, and Idaho.
	Upton	* is not sure of the involvement of the legislative assemblies * There exists good cooperation between the legislative assemblies, the investigation units and staff of neighboring states.
184	Neely	AFS is interested in ideas from the Oregon Legislature as well as from members of neighboring states.
190	Rep. Devlin	Asks if neighboring states should have more coordination within their benefit programs thereby avoiding problems around state boundaries.
210	Upton	* Standardizing programs would be helpful in avoiding some problems of fraud. * It is very difficult for large bureaucracies and the federal government to standardize policies and procedures.
220	Neely	Believes the new latitude that states are being granted is moving state programs farther apart (i.e. how states choose to treat legal immigrants).
230	Rep. Taylor	Asks if Oregon has a different working relationship with California than with Washington/Idaho.
238	Upton	Responds affirmatively. In California the Aid to Dependent Children Program and Food Stamp program are county administered and this makes it difficult to check on.
250	Upton	There is not a standard practice of treating neighboring states differently. * the federal computer matching program will include Washington, California, and Oregon
260	Rep. Taylor	Asks about the opportunities Oregon investigators have to consult with other state units.
267	Upton	The Oregon investigators that boarder Idaho share a great deal of information with that state.
280	Chair Milne	Asks about the larger issue of relating this issue to the federal law. Brings up a number of issues and concerns including:

1. limiting welfare fraud
2. how to take care of legal aliens that depend on benefits
3. information on welfare reform and fraud statistics has been very difficult to get
4. who are the people this bill is targeting?
5. how bad is the problem of fraud?

6. what can the legislature do to help the unit do their job better?

\* The Federal Welfare Reform Bill has been very generous to Oregon in helping us run our programs.

323 Neely \* There is a flaw in the Federal Welfare Reform Bill regarding the treatment of aliens and legal immigrants.

\* An estimated twenty two million dollars will be needed to replace the food stamp benefits from the twelve thousand legal immigrants who will be terminated from the program in August of 1997.

360 Rep. Harper Asks why the twelve thousand immigrants referred to are not citizens.

\* Many are recent immigrants and have not been in this country for the qualifying 5 year period.

362 Neely

\* Many did not pursue citizenship because there was no real advantage to do so until recently.

**TAPE 70, A**

003 Rep. Taylor Comments on the deadlines that must be met by immigrants seeking citizenship and the difficulty to apply and test in rural areas.

Asks if there has been movement to re-examine welfare reform at the federal level.

007 Rep. Devlin

Asks if the new reform bill was a federal mandate for the states to take care of their immigrant populations.

The President had serious reservations about how the welfare reform bill was going to affect immigrants.

010 Neely

Discusses proposals to undo the immigrant portion of the reform.

\* Ergo, Well Stone Amendment

030 Chair Milne The legislative assembly is available to assist in the welfare reform process.

AFS and its agencies must ask for the appropriate assistance.

040 Neely \* AFS is working with other divisions within the department and with the governor's office to get a handle on the people affected by welfare reform and the possible alternatives.

051 Chair Milne Closes the public hearing on HB 2713.

055 Chair Milne Opens a public hearing on HB 2125.

**HB 2125**  
**PUBLIC**  
**HEARING**

- 058 Thomas Johnson Director, Center for Environment & Health Systems (CEHS), Oregon Health Division, submits and presents written testimony in support of HB 2125 (**EXHIBIT B**) on behalf of Elinor C. Hall MPH, Administrator, Oregon Health Division.
- 121 Rep. Taylor Asks about the large jump in fees being proposed and wonders why the state does not have a good reputation for reimbursing ambulance services.  
 \* Acknowledges the large jump in the proposed fee.  
 \* The fee hasn't been changed since 1983.
- 137 Johnson \* The fee is not a large percentage for the non volunteer services.  
 \* Refers to efforts to improve on ambulance service reimbursements and payments.
- 165 Rep. Harper Asks how the fee increase compares to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- 170 Johnson Will follow up with requested information.
- 173 Chair Milne Asks how many complaints are received and what is a typical complaint.  
 Many Complaints are received.  
 Complaints range:  
 \* high fees
- 184 Johnson \* poor care by attendants  
 \* too long response time  
 \* poorly stocked ambulances  
 \* overall quality of service complaints
- 226 Rep. Kruse Asks to see the fiscal report.
- 230 Johnson Submits and explains the fiscal impact statement created for the Oregon Health Division dated 01/31/97 for HB 2125 (**EXHIBIT C**).
- 239 Rep. Lokan Asks how often inspections are completed by CEHS.  
 \* The agency has one inspector that makes an inspection every three years or more often if there is a need to respond to a complaint.
- 243 Johnson \* Inspections are done on a geographic basis.  
 \* Each service is inspected and each ambulance is individually inspected.  
 \* Inspections are conducted so that compliance can be maintained and

technical assistance can be offered.

320 Johnson Continues presentation.

353 Rep. Devlin Asks about the \$39,148 figure for publicity and publications.

\* The agency makes available a large amount of written technical assistance to services.

358 Johnson

\* The figure representing printing costs is the exact amount it will cost to make available this information to the industry.

366 Rep. Devlin Asks if updated information is continually being created for ambulance services.

368 Johnson Responds affirmatively.

383 Chair Milne Asks if **EXHIBIT C** is indicating that without the revenue this bill would generate CEHS will have to remove some FTE.

Responds affirmatively.

387 Johnson

\* CEHS will not have enough funds to continue the inspector position.

**TAPE 69, B**

010 Chair Milne Asks about the \$3,000 figure for office expenses.

011 Chair Milne That includes the basic office supplies (i.e. paper, pencils, clips, etc.).

022 Rep. Piercy Asks if there has been discussion with and input from the ambulance services.

Responds affirmatively.

\* The Oregon Ambulance Association

025 Johnson

\* The Fire Medical Chief's Association

\* The Volunteer Association

030 Rep. Harper Asks about the number of municipal ambulance services are in operation.

Director, Emergency Medical Services and Systems (EMS), OHD.

\* Of the 149 ambulance services listed in **EXHIBIT C**, 140 are municipal fire agencies.

032 Greg Lander

\* There is a small number of private services, that cover a larger amount of territory.

043 Rep. Harper Asks about increased costs that will inevitably be passed on to the consumer.

046 Lander Responds affirmatively.

\* ambulance services recoup costs by raising rates

\* fees proposed are not high enough to warrant rate increases

073 Rep. Taylor Asks about the difficulty that ambulances are having with being reimbursed for providing medical care to welfare recipients.  
 Johnson \* There are many services that don't get reimbursed or are not fully reimbursed  
 Asks for a breakdown of who will be paying what increases.

093 Chair Milne Asks about who decided on the fee changes and wonders if there was much discussion on what was needed and acceptable.  
 \* There was a great deal of discussion between CEHS, the associations, and direct service providers.

100 Johnson \* Many of the smaller services did not agree to pay the same fees as the larger services.  
 \* Agreement with the Ambulance Association regarding fees was received.

121 Chair Milne Requests fiscal information from CEHS on past biennium.

125 Johnson Will supply requested information.

127 Rep. Devlin Asks about the impact of rate structure in terms of revenue figures when adding employees.  
 Johnson Will need to contact the Association and collect requested information.

150 Rep. Kruse Asks what the fee payment is for the Oregon Health Plan and Medicare.

154 Johnson Will provide requested information.  
 Representative, Oregon Ambulance Association, testifies in support of HB 2125.

160 Nan Heim \* met with the state and assisted in working on the bill  
 \* recognizes that federal funds have dwindled  
 \* supports the need to regulate ambulance services  
 \* Woodburn will increase in fees about \$ 500.00 more per year.

179 Rep. Harper Asks if the association would contract with the state for \$94,000.  
 \* The Association works closely with the state.

185 Heim \* Will have to come back to the committee with an answer as to the issue of contracts with the state.

192 Chair Milne Closes the public hearing on HB 2125.

194 Chair Adjourns the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Milne

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Diane M. Quinones, Lori A. Long,

Administrative Support Administrator

**EXHIBIT SUMMARY**

**A - HB 2713, written testimony, Dave Upton, 3 pp.**

**B - HB 2125, written testimony and Fact Sheet, Tom Johnson, 4 pp.**

**C - HB 2125, Fiscal Impact information, Johnson, 3 pp.**