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## OLR Bill Analysis

### sSB 1359

## **AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO STATUTES CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.**

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### **SUMMARY**

This bill makes various unrelated changes affecting human services-related statutes, as described in the section-by-section analysis below.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Various, see below.

### **§ 1 — CHILD SUPPORT ORDERS FROM OTHER STATES**

*Allows DSS or SES to notify certain parties of a child support obligor's overdue support when DSS receives a request from another state for help enforcing an order that is not registered in the state but meets certain federal requirements*

Existing law allows the Department of Social Services (DSS) or the Superior Court's Support Enforcement Services (SES) to help enforce another state's child support order when the request is registered in this state. The bill allows DSS and SES to similarly enforce another state's child support order when DSS, acting as the IV-D agency, receives a request from another state for help enforcing an order that has not been registered in the state, but meets certain federal requirements on high-volume, automated enforcement in interstate cases. Under federal law, these requests must (1) include information the receiving state may compare with information in its databases, and (2) constitute a certification by the requesting state of the amount of support owed and that the requesting state has complied with all applicable procedural due process requirements for the case.

Under current law and the bill, when DSS receives a request from another state, DSS or SES may notify state or local agencies, financial institutions, and certain other parties. These parties must withhold delivery or distribution of assets, funds, property, or benefits until further notice. This applies to cases where the obligor owes at least \$500 in overdue child support.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

## **§ 2 — CHILD SUPPORT ORDER MODIFICATIONS**

*Removes a prohibition on decreasing an existing support order based solely on income loss due to incarceration for an offense against the custodial party or the child*

In cases where an obligor is institutionalized or incarcerated, existing law generally requires the Superior Court or family support magistrate to establish an initial order for support or modify an existing order for support based on an obligor's present income. The bill removes a provision that prohibits decreasing an existing support order based solely on income loss due to incarceration for an offense against the custodial party or the child. It makes conforming changes to affidavit and notice requirements.

Federal regulations require states to base child support orders on the noncustodial parent's earnings, income, and other evidence of ability to pay and prohibit states from treating incarceration as voluntary unemployment in order to set or change child support orders.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

### **§ 3 — POSTING AT MANAGED RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES**

*Requires managed residential communities to post DSS contact information to report suspected abuse, neglect, exploitation, or abandonment of an elderly person, or that an elderly person may be in need of protective services*

Current law requires managed residential communities to prominently post a resident's bill of rights, including contact information for the Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman. The bill expands this required posting to include contact information for DSS to report suspected abuse, neglect, exploitation, or abandonment of an elderly person, or that an elderly person may be in need of protective services.

A managed residential community is a for-profit or nonprofit facility consisting of private residential units that provide a managed group living environment with housing and services for people who are primarily age 55 and over (e.g., assisted living facilities). The term excludes state-funded congregate housing facilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

### **§ 4 — REPORT ON SNAP BENEFIT DISTRIBUTION**

*Requires DSS to report to the Human Services Committee one time on staggering SNAP benefits rather than annually*

Existing law requires DSS to distribute Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to cohorts of beneficiaries at multiple intervals during the month (i.e. implement a staggered distribution), starting March 1, 2026. Current law requires DSS to report on this to the Human Services Committee annually, starting by April 1, 2026. The bill makes this report a one-time requirement, due on that date.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

**§ 5 — INFLATIONARY RATE ADJUSTMENTS FOR RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES**

*Sets a methodology for calculating inflation adjustments for rate components for community companion homes and community living arrangements*

The rates DSS pays community companion homes and community living arrangements are based, in part, on the facility's costs. The bill establishes a methodology to calculate certain inflationary adjustments for these facilities and facilities that receive a flat rate for residential services under DSS regulations.

Specifically, the bill requires that any subsequent increase to allowable operating costs, excluding fair rent, be increased by the gross domestic product (GDP) deflator when funding is specifically appropriated for the increase in the enacted budget. The inflation rate is computed by comparing the most recent year to the average of the GDP deflator for the previous four fiscal quarters ending March 31. The bill requires inflationary increases to be applied before any other budget adjustment factor that may impact rates.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

**§ 6 — DDS FORMER EMPLOYEE REGISTRY ACCESS**

*Broadens access to DDS's registry of former employees terminated or separated from employment due to substantiated abuse or neglect*

Existing law requires the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to maintain a registry of certain former employees who were fired from or left their jobs due to substantiated abuse or neglect and make the registry available to specified agencies, employers, and charitable organizations. The bill additionally requires DDS to make the registry available to employers of service providers for people who get services or funding from DSS's Medicaid waiver for autism spectrum disorder.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

***Background – Related Bill***

sHB 7108, favorably reported by the Human Services Committee, requires DDS to report annually to the Human Services and Public Health committees on abuse and neglect complaints against former

employees and any related backlog of investigations.

## **§ 7 — BREAST PROSTHESIS OUTREACH AND BULLETIN**

*Requires DSS to provide information on Medicaid coverage of custom-made breast prostheses to providers and Medicaid enrollees and develop a related outreach program*

The bill requires the DSS commissioner to develop a bulletin on Medicaid coverage for custom-made, noninvasive breast prostheses and distribute it to Medicaid-enrolled providers. Under the bill, this prosthesis is an exterior, custom-made form to fit a mastectomy patient's individual physical profile to restore symmetrical appearance after surgery. The bill requires DSS to also include information on Medicaid coverage of this service in newsletters to Medicaid enrollees.

Lastly, the bill requires DSS, in collaboration with DPH, to develop an outreach program on available coverage for these services for breast cancer survivors.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea    21    Nay   1    (03/18/2025)