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# MEMORANDUM

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**To:** Human Services Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

**From:** Laurie Byerly, Legislative Fiscal Office  
503-986-1833

**Date:** February 24, 2016

**Subject:** HB 4042 - Relating to general assistance  
Work Session Recommendation

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HB 4042 establishes a general assistance (GA) project to serve no more than 200 participants per month who are homeless, enrolled in a medical assistance program, and have a disability that would likely qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits. Participants would receive a payment of \$695 per month to be used for housing assistance, utilities, personal incidentals, or assistance applying for SSI or SSDI benefits. The benefits given through the GA project would be recovered when the participant starts receiving SSI or SSDI benefits; at that time, the participant would be exit the program.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) estimates it may take up to 19 months from when a participant first applies for federal benefits for DHS to begin recovering the funds. It is estimated that about 80% of participants will become eligible, and the state will recover about 85% of the amount it paid out for those individuals.

The bill had hearings in House Committee on Human Services and Housing on February 3 and 8, 2016.

For the 2015-17 biennium, the bill has a fiscal impact of \$1.6 million General Fund (\$1.7 million total funds) and 3 positions (1.50 FTE). Since the program begins mid-biennium, costs for 2017-19 will be higher, but federal recoveries will begin to offset some costs.

## **Amendment**

The - 3 the amendment adds to the charge of the advisory group the task of compiling a list of attorneys to represent certain project participants and stipulates that DHS must appoint the advisory group by July 1, 2016. The amendment also sets a clear program start date of July 1, 2016, adds an emergency clause, and adds funding.

**Motion: I move the -3 amendment to HB 4042.**

**Measure as Modified**

The measure, as amended, is recommended to be moved to the Full Committee on Joint Ways and Means.

**Motion: I move HB 4042 to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means with a “do pass” recommendation, as amended.**

**Assignment of Carriers**

Full: \_\_\_\_\_

1<sup>st</sup> Chamber: \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Chamber: \_\_\_\_\_