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LEGISLATIVE BRIEF -- February 13, 2014

Revenue Outlook

Yesterday, Oregon lawmakers received good news in the form of revenue forecast that remains on target, meaning the budget passed last June won't need any major adjustments. Oregon's Office of Economic Analysis quarterly revenue forecast projects an increase in state revenue of \$14.8 million for the 2013-15 biennium. Additionally, the Legislative Revenue Office reported its estimate of local school revenue for the 2013-15 biennium has increased by \$98 million.

APD and COSPD Joint Presentation to Legislature on Funding Priorities

Also on yesterday's legislative agenda was the joint presentation by Adults and People with Disabilities (APD) and Oregon's Campaign for Seniors and People with Disabilities (the "Campaign") on the \$26 million special purpose appropriation (SPA) to the Ways and Means Human Services Subcommittee. The report was well received with a few questions on the specifics of the proposals as well as the balance of one-time versus ongoing expenses. The [cover letter](#) to the [SPA Funding Request](#) indicated that it was collectively developed and supported by the Campaign members. Further it pointed out that the appropriation resulted from a change to the Senior Medical Deduction, which many advocates and legislators strongly believe should be reinvested in services to seniors and people with disabilities.

Mike McCormick, APD Director, also reported on the status of the nursing facility reduction initiative passed last legislative session to reduce Oregon's nursing facility capacity by 1500 beds. To date, 55 nursing beds have been taken "offline" making up 3.7% of the target to be reached by December 30, 2015. It was reported that potential purchases are complex in part due to existing financing mechanisms whereby the land is held by another entity than the owner of the facility.

Status of Bills of Interest

Today, the Senate passed SB 1577 the "Silver Alert" bill to require state police, sheriff and municipal police departments to adopt written policies related to missing vulnerable adults. LeadingAge Oregon and other Campaign members supported this legislation requested by the Alzheimer's Association and introduced by Senator Tim Knopp (R-Bend).

Due to the short session and unplanned weather days off, there has been a flurry of activity to move bills. Today is the last day for policy committees (excludes Rules, Finance & Revenue and Ways & Means) to hold work sessions on Senate Bills.

As of this writing, the following bills passed out of committee and were referred to Ways and Means:

- HB 1542 to expand the Home Care Commission registry to private payers,
- HB 1553 to appoint a public guardian and conservator within the long term care ombudsman office

- HB 4108 to implement a pilot project to provide used durable medical equipment to persons on Medicaid

For more information on these bills as well as others of being tracked by LeadingAge Oregon, access [LeadingAge Oregon's Bill Report](#) as of today.

Please contact Ruth Gulyas, rgulyas@leadingageoregon.org or 503-683-3788 if you have any questions.