

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

Senate Committee on Senate Health Care

REVENUE: No revenue impact**FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Zena Rockowitz, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 5/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to provide medical assistance on a discretionary basis, and within available funds, to children under 19 years of age whose family income is at or below 300 percent of federal poverty guidelines and who does not qualify for the Health Care for All Oregon Children program. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

BACKGROUND: Oregon requires children receiving medical assistance must be residents of Oregon. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) provides medical assistance for children with families with incomes at or below 133 percent of the federal poverty level through the Health Care for All Oregon Children program (Medicaid) and for children with family incomes below 300 percent of the federal poverty level through the Children's Health Insurance program (CHIP). OHA also administers the Citizen/Alien Waived Emergency Medical program (CAWEM) to provide emergency medical coverage to children and adults who are non-citizens. CAWEM is available to those who would qualify for Medicaid but are ineligible to qualify due to the immigration status requirements. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services reports that in Oregon, in 2013, nearly 89 percent of eligible children were enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP programs. House Bill 3517-A directs OHA to provide medical assistance, within available funds, to low income children who do not qualify for Health Care for All Oregon Children program.