

DRAFT

SUMMARY

Requires Department of Consumer and Business Services to administer program to provide financial assistance with cost of deductibles and other cost-sharing requirements associated with health insurance. Requires Director of Department of Consumer and Business Services to convene task force to make recommendations for eligibility and administration of program. Specifies members of task force and duties.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to the cost of medical care; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:

(a) “Health insurance exchange” has the meaning given that term in ORS 741.300.

(b) “Qualified health plan” means an individual health benefit plan available for purchase through the health insurance exchange.

(2) The Department of Consumer and Business Services shall administer a program to subsidize a portion of the cost of deductibles and other out-of-pocket costs for an individual who:

(a) Is enrolled in a qualified health plan;

(b) Has income at or below 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines; and

(c) Is at high risk of incurring excessive medical expenses due to:

(A) A catastrophic injury or illness;

(B) A chronic condition that causes the individual to consistently incur medical expenses up to the out-of-pocket limit before the end

NOTE: Matter in boldfaced type in an amended section is new; matter [italic and bracketed] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in boldfaced type.

1 of the plan year; or

2 (C) Other qualifying factors established by the department by rule.

3 **SECTION 2.** (1) The Director of the Department of Consumer and
4 Business Services shall convene a task force consisting of seven
5 members appointed as follows:

6 (a) The President of the Senate shall appoint one nonvoting mem-
7 ber from among members of the Senate.

8 (b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one
9 nonvoting member from among members of the House of Represen-
10 tatives.

11 (c) The Governor shall appoint:

12 (A) One member representing low income individuals enrolled in
13 qualified health plans, as defined in section 1 of this 2017 Act;

14 (B) Two members representing consumer advocates; and

15 (C) Two members representing carriers.

16 (3) The task force shall study and make recommendations to the
17 director for:

18 (a) The criteria for section 1 (2) of this 2017 Act;

19 (b) One or more income-tiered approaches to reducing out-of-pocket
20 costs for enrollees;

21 (c) The distribution of moneys from the fund established under
22 section 3 of this 2017 Act; and

23 (d) Additional sources of revenue to reduce the long-term depend-
24 ence on the General Fund of the program described in section 1 of this
25 2017 Act.

26 (4) A majority of the voting members of the task force constitutes
27 a quorum for the transaction of business.

28 (5) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a ma-
29 jority of the voting members of the task force.

30 (6) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chair-
31 person.

1 (7) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority
2 shall make an appointment to become immediately effective.

3 (8) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the
4 call of the chairperson or of a majority of the voting members of the
5 task force.

6 (9) The Department of Consumer and Business Services shall pro-
7 vide staff support to the task force.

8 (10) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legis-
9 lative Assembly are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement
10 for expenses and serve as volunteers on the task force.

11 (11) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are
12 directed to assist the task force in the performance of the task force's
13 duties and, to the extent permitted by laws relating to confidentiality,
14 to furnish information and advice the members of the task force con-
15 sider necessary to perform their duties.

16 SECTION 3. A fund is established in the State Treasury, separate
17 and distinct from the General Fund. Moneys in the fund established
18 under this section are continuously appropriated to the Department
19 of Consumer and Business Services for carrying out the provisions of
20 section 1 of this 2017 Act.

21 SECTION 4. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropri-
22 ation, there is appropriated to the Department of Consumer and
23 Business Services, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, out of the
24 General Fund, the amount of \$_____ million, to be deposited into the
25 fund established under section 3 of this 2017 Act, for carrying out the
26 provisions of section 1 of this 2017 Act.

27 SECTION 5. (1) Section 1 of this 2017 Act becomes operative No-
28 vember 1, 2017.

29 (2) Before November 1, 2017, the Department of Consumer and
30 Business Services shall take all steps necessary to administer the
31 program described in section 1 of this 2017 Act, on and after November

1 1, 2017.

2 **SECTION 6.** Section 2 of this 2017 Act is repealed on December 31,
3 2018.

4 **SECTION 7.** This 2017 Act being necessary for the immediate pres-
5 ervation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is de-
6 clared to exist, and this 2017 Act takes effect on its passage.

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