

SB 1553

Relating to behavioral health care

SB 1553 requires the Oregon Health Authority to identify, assess, and prepare a report on the regulatory and policy barriers that limit access to effective and timely treatment of individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. The report must make recommendations related to the necessary credentialing for treating co-occurring disorders, define strategies to increase reimbursement for treatment, and identify ways to improve access to peer support specialists.

The bill requires OHA to submit the report to the Legislature no later than September 15th, 2020. As part of this submission, the agency must describe the steps it has taken to reduce the barriers to access identified in the report and make recommendations for legislation for the 2021 legislative session to help ensure individuals with co-occurring disorders have access to timely and effective treatment.

The estimated fiscal impact is \$319,196 General Fund and \$334,264 Federal Funds to support contractual costs and one limited-duration position.

The Capital Construction Subcommittee recommends SB 1553 be amended by the -A3 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.