

**SB 1553 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Mental Health**

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**Action Date:** 02/10/20

**Action:** Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

**Vote:** 4-0-1-0

**Yeas:** 4 - Boles, Gelser, Monnes Anderson, Roblan

**Exc:** 1 - Heard

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Zoe Larmer, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/3, 2/5, 2/10

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), in collaboration with specified stakeholder groups, to identify, assess, and prepare report on regulatory and policy barriers to effective and timely behavioral health treatment, including for individuals with co-occurring disorders. Defines types of behavioral health treatment and co-occurring disorders. Requires OHA to submit report to legislative interim committees and subcommittees related to health and mental health by September 15, 2020. Specifies report be accompanied by a description of steps OHA has taken to reduce barriers to access and recommendations for comprehensive legislation in 2021 to ensure individuals with co-occurring disorders have access to timely and effective treatment. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Definition of co-occurring disorder
- Federal regulations
- Barriers to coordination of services

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Clarifies the definition of "behavioral health treatment." Adds intellectual or developmental disability to the definition of "co-occurring disorder." Removes the Oregon Health Policy Board from the organizations coordinating the report.

**BACKGROUND:**

A co-occurring disorder (formerly known as a dual diagnosis) is a diagnosis of a mental health disorder along with a diagnosis of substance use disorder or problem gambling. According to the Oregon Health Authority, each disorder can cause symptoms of the other disorder, leading to slow recovery and reduced quality of life for a person with a co-occurring disorder. Executive Order No. 19-06 named treating individuals with co-occurring disorders as a priority for the Governor's Behavioral Health Advisory Council.

Senate Bill 1553-A directs the Oregon Health Authority to report to the Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2020 on regulatory and policy barriers to accessing behavioral health services for individuals with co-occurring disorders.