

SB 70 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 2/3, 2/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines key terms, including "regional health equity coalition" and "regional health equity coalition model."

Requires Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to work with regional health equity coalitions and groups utilizing regional health equity coalition model, to ensure service to priority populations throughout the state.

Appropriates moneys to provide grants to existing and prospective regional health equity coalitions and fund staff support. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of RHEC work in communities, including during COVID-19 pandemic and wildfires
- Inclusion in Governor's Budget and support of Racial Justice Council

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Requires OHA to define "communities of color" by rule. Clarifies requirement that OHA work with regional health equity coalitions.

BACKGROUND:

Regional Health Equity Coalitions (RHECs) are collaborative, community-led, cross-sector groups organized regionally to identify and address health equity issues. Currently funded by the Oregon Health Authority's Office of Equity and Inclusion and Health Promotion Chronic Disease Prevention section of the Public Health Division, four RHECs currently serve nine Oregon counties: Linn Benton Health Equity Alliance (Linn and Benton counties); Mid-Columbia Health Equity Advocates (Hood River and Wasco counties); Oregon Health Equity Alliance (Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties); Southern Oregon Health Equity Coalition (Jackson and Josephine counties).

Senate Bill 70 funds the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to provide grants to existing and prospective regional health equity coalitions and directs OHA to work with the regional health coalitions to ensure service to priority populations throughout Oregon.