

SB 641 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 3/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Provides health care coverage under the Health Care for All Oregon Children program for youth in juvenile detention facilities awaiting adjudication. Requires Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to seek federal approval for Medicaid to support the costs of providing medical assistance to youth in detention pending adjudication by July 1, 2025. Directs OHA to collaborate with county juvenile department directors, the Department of Human Services, and the Oregon Youth Authority to study the need to provide medical assistance to youth held in detention facilities prior to adjudication. Requires OHA to submit a report to the interim judiciary committees of the Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2023.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2018, 3,612 minors were placed in detention while awaiting resolution of their cases. In 2018, the average length of stay for pre-adjudication youth was 10.5 days and 99.1 days for youth held for a Ballot Measure 11 offense. Federal law prohibits the use of federal Medicaid moneys to fund health or mental health services for individuals awaiting adjudication, often referred to as the inmate exclusion. This policy applies to both adults in jails or prisons as well as to youth involuntarily detained in a state or local juvenile facility. In Oregon, when a youth is placed in detention their Medicaid benefits are suspended.

In 2009, the legislature passed House Bill 2116 which established the Health Care for All Oregon Children program which makes "affordable, accessible health care available to all of Oregon's children." The program provides Medicaid coverage to children under 19 years of age. It does not currently provide health care for youth in pre-adjudication detention due to the federal inmate exclusion.

Senate Bill 641 provides health care coverage for youth in detention awaiting adjudication. The measure also requires the Oregon Health Authority to seek Medicaid to support the coverage of those children by July 1, 2023, and requires the Oregon Health Authority, juvenile department directors, and the Oregon Youth Authority to study barriers to the provision of health care to those children.