

SB 711 -10 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 2/22, 3/29, 3/31

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Health Authority to conduct study comparing the costs of pharmaceuticals used primarily by women to the costs of pharmaceuticals used primarily by men and the factors that contribute to any differences. Requires report to be delivered to Legislative Assembly by September 12, 2022 and include recommendations for legislative changes, if necessary, to address disparities in the costs of pharmaceuticals based on sex. Sunsets January 2, 2023. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Price differences in drugs for women versus similar drugs for men
- International price differences
- Confidentiality of information used in study

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-10 Moves responsibility for study to Department of Consumer and Business Services and limits scope to cost of hormone replacement drugs.

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

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

BACKGROUND:

According to a 2019 Gallup study, the percentage of adults who reported not having had enough money in the past 12 months to "pay for needed medicine or drugs that a doctor prescribed" to them rose from 18.9 percent in January of that year to 22.9 percent in September. The study also revealed a widening gender gap of adults experiencing "medication insecurity," with a 27.5 percent among women compared to a 18.1 percent among men. In 2018, the New York Times reported that drugs used to treat women's sexual health had seen both increases in costs and reductions in insurance coverage.

Senate Bill 711 requires the Oregon Health Authority to conduct a study comparing the costs of pharmaceuticals used primarily by women to the costs of pharmaceuticals used primarily by men and report the findings to the legislature by September 15, 2022.