

HB 2591 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/25, 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows mobile school-based health centers to qualify for safety net grants from Oregon Health Authority.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Value and flexibility of mobile school-based health centers
- School nurse shortages
- Impact of COVID-19 on student health needs, including behavioral health
- Ability to leverage federal funds through Medicaid billing

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 Replaces measure. Requires Oregon Health Authority (OHA), in consultation with the Department of Education, to select 10 school districts or education service districts to receive two-year planning grants for district planning and technical assistance to address school-based health services needs in their respective communities. Requires OHA to contract with a nonprofit organization with experience in facilitating school health planning initiatives and supporting school-based health centers to facilitate and oversee the planning process and to provide technical assistance to grantees. Requires grantees to solicit specified community participation in the planning process. Stipulates that grantees will receive funding to operate a school-based health center or school nurse model at the end of the two-year planning process. Allows OHA to award up to three grants to districts to implement a mobile school-linked health center. Defines "mobile school-linked health center." Requires OHA to award grants to three school-based health centers to operate pilot projects to expand student access to mental and physical health care services and to improve the health and education outcomes of students through the use of telehealth. Establishes pilot project agreement requirements. Requires OHA to submit a report to the Legislative Assembly by December 31, 2025 on the effectiveness and success of pilot projects. Appropriates \$2,555,000 to OHA for grants. Sunsets school-based health center and mobile school-linked health center grants on January 2, 2028. Sunsets school-based health center pilot projects on January 2, 2026. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2021.

REVENUE: *No revenue impact*

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

BACKGROUND:

School-based health centers (SBHCs) provide comprehensive physical, mental and preventive health services to youth and adolescents either within a school or on school property. SBHCs have existed in Oregon since 1986 through unique public-private partnerships between the Oregon Public Health Division, school districts, county public health departments, public and private practitioners, tribes, parents, students, and community members. With easy access to health care in a school setting, SBHCs reduce barriers such as cost, transportation, and concerns surrounding confidentiality that often keep children and youth from seeking the health services they need. SBHCs provide a full range of physical, mental and preventative health services to all students, regardless of their ability to pay.

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House Bill 2591 allows mobile school-based health centers to qualify for safety net grants from Oregon Health Authority.

PRELIMINARY