

SB 698 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

Prepared By: C. Ross, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 3/30, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to condition authorization to operate an opioid treatment center on acceptance of Medicare reimbursement via rulemaking. Takes effect 91st day after *sine die* adjournment.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Concern about increased admissions and needs of older persons; emerging public health issue
- Increasing the number of providers that accept Medicare for treatment of substance use disorders
- Lack of providers overall that accept Medicare for seniors

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The National Institute on Drug Abuse reports that around one million older adults experience a substance use disorder and that the proportion of older adults admitted to treatment facilities has increased alarmingly over time. As an example, between 2013 and 2015, the total number of people age 55 and up increased by about six percent, while the proportion of individuals in the same age group that sought treatment for an opioid use disorder increased by almost 54%. Older adults may be exposed to more potentially addictive medications since they generally experience a higher proportion of health issues, and more complicated or persistent pain, and may be prescribed more medicines than other age groups for those reasons.

The purpose of Oregon's Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission (ADPC) is to improve prevention, treatment and recovery from substance use disorders at state and local levels. Increasing access to treatment by lowering or removing barriers is among the ADPC's strategic objectives, and increasing the number of providers that accept Medicare for seniors is included in the ADPC's 2020-2025 Statewide Strategic Plan.

Senate Bill 698 conditions an opioid treatment center's authorization to operate on acceptance of Medicare reimbursement via rules adopted by OHA.