

SB 719 -1, -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 3/24, 4/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Provides that aggregate data derived from information obtained by the Oregon Health Authority or a local public health administrator in the course of an investigation of a reportable disease or disease outbreak are not confidential or exempt from disclosure under public records laws unless the data could reasonably lead to the identification of an individual.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Release of aggregated data balanced with privacy of an individual's information
- Oregon Health Authority's release of information during pandemic; availability to the public and media
- Disclosure of information gathered in a public health investigation
- Definition of aggregate data and reasonableness standard in determining release of data
- Different types of data collected, proposed information disclosures, and triangulation

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 **Replaces the measure.** Requires Oregon Health Authority (OHA) or local public health administrator to release aggregate information about reportable disease investigations, if the release does not identify individual cases or sources of information. Requires OHA to publish quarterly outbreak disease investigations that have been closed by the agency. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: statement issued - no revenue impact.

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

-2 **Replaces the measure.** Requires Oregon Health Authority (OHA) or local public health administrator to release aggregate information about reportable disease investigations, if the release does not identify individual cases or sources of information. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: statement issued - no revenue impact..

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BACKGROUND:

All Oregon physicians, other health care providers and laboratorians are required by law to report certain diseases and conditions to local health departments. Reporting enables appropriate public health follow-up for patients, helps identify outbreaks, and provides a better understanding of Oregon morbidity patterns. Oregon law allows limited release of information obtained during a reportable disease investigation to individuals who have been exposed or if release is necessary to avoid an immediate danger to an individual or the public. Reportable disease investigation information is otherwise exempt from public records disclosure.

Senate Bill 719 provides that aggregate data obtained in the course of reportable disease or disease outbreak investigation can be publicly reported if the release does not lead to the identification of an individual.