

Legislative Fiscal Office

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Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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To: Human Services Subcommittee

From: Tom MacDonald, Legislative Fiscal Office

Date: June 7, 2021

Subject: HB 2981 – Relating to palliative care
Work Session Recommendations

HB 2981 directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to administer a program to provide palliative care services to qualifying patients through coordinated care organizations (CCOs). These services include: assessments; advanced care planning; case management and care coordination; pain and symptom management; mental health and medical social work services; 24-hour clinical telephone support; spiritual care services; and other services OHA prescribes by rule.

The measure also requires services to be provided through an interdisciplinary assessment team approach. OHA is required to adopt rules determining patient eligibility and provider qualification requirements. Reimbursement rates must be mutually agreed upon by providers and CCOs.

Palliative care services are already covered by Medicaid in Oregon and the net fiscal impact of the measure is anticipated to be minimal. While the measure's requirement for interdisciplinary team involvement and patient eligibility criteria may be different than currently offered services, the use of these services could reduce emergency department and hospital visits. There are therefore no budgetary adjustments planned in relation to the adoption of this measure.

The measure previously had hearings in the House Health Care Committee on 2/18/21 and 3/18/21 and was reported out with a do pass recommendation.

Final Subcommittee Action

LFO recommends that HB 2981 be moved to the Ways and Means Full Committee.

Carriers

Full Committee: _____

House Floor: _____

Senate Floor: _____