

SB 65 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 02/22/21

Action: Do pass and requesting referral to Ways and Means.

Vote: 4-1-0-0

Yeas: 4 - Beyer, Knopp, Manning Jr, Patterson

Nays: 1 - Heard

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/3, 2/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Transfers duties, functions, and powers related to Compact of Free Association (COFA) Premium Assistance Program and health insurance exchange from Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) to Oregon Health Authority (OHA) on June 30, 2021. Requires OHA to annually report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health on progress of integrating programs beginning September 15, 2022. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Alignment of other programs and functions currently within OHA
- Ability to further combine OHA's purchasing power
- Regulatory placement of exchange functions in other states
- Continued regulatory responsibilities of DCBS
- Potential to simplify process for community assisters and open up federal funding opportunities
- Size of small businesses eligible for Small Business Health Options Program

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2011, the Legislative Assembly established Oregon's health insurance exchange, commonly referred to as the Marketplace. Utilizing the federal [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) enrollment system, the Marketplace helps individuals and small businesses find and enroll in health and dental insurance coverage, including connecting individuals to financial assistance. During the 2021 open enrollment period, 141,089 plan selections were made through the Marketplace.

The Compact of Free Association (COFA) Premium Assistance Program (Program) was established by the Legislative Assembly in 2016 to provide free health insurance for low-income citizens of the Republic of Marshall Islands, the Federated State of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau who live in Oregon under the compact. The Program pays for the enrollee's share of premiums for standard silver-level health insurance plans purchased through [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov). In the 2021 open enrollment period, 808 people were found eligible for premium assistance through the Program.

Senate Bill 65 transfers the duties, functions, and powers related to the COFA Premium Assistance Program and Marketplace from the Department of Consumer and Business Services to the Oregon Health Authority.