

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2021 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

Measure: HB 2088

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Date: March 16, 2021

Measure Description:

Requires Oregon Health Authority to adopt by rule qualification criteria for tribal traditional health workers as additional category of traditional health workers.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Analysis:

HB 2088 relates to Traditional Health Workers (THW). This measure increases the Traditional Health Workers Commission within the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) from 23 to 24 members, to include at least one tribal traditional health worker. "Tribal traditional health worker" is a new category of traditional health worker, and is defined as an individual who meets qualification criteria adopted by OHA by rule, including education and training requirements, and who:

- Has expertise or experience in public health;
- Works in a tribal community or an urban Indian community, either for pay or as a volunteer in association with a local health care system;
- To the extent practicable, shares ethnicity, language, socioeconomic status and life experiences with the residents of the community the worker serves;
- Assists members of the community to improve their health, including physical, behavioral and oral health, and increases the capacity of the community to meet the health care needs of its residents, and assists community residents in receiving the care they need;
- Provides health education and information that is culturally appropriate;
- May give peer counseling and guidance on health behaviors; and
- May provide direct services, such as tribal-based practices.

OHA anticipates costs of \$385,623 in 2021-23, which includes \$121,106 General Fund, \$10,596 Other Funds, and \$19,680 Federal Funds. The estimated total costs in 2023-25 is \$443,639, which includes \$354,912 General Fund, \$31,055 Other Funds, and \$57,672 Federal Funds. The estimated cost supports one permanent Program Analyst 3 position in the agency's Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI) to provide capacity in OEI to support the qualification criteria, including education and training requirements, for the traditional health workers utilized by coordinated care organizations. The cost also supports updates to OEI's statewide workforce registry, the review of new training program, technical assistance and consultation to health systems and other stakeholders, and community engagement and outreach for the new THW category.

OHA will also need to submit a State Plan Amendment to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services so that this new category of health worker would be eligible as a billable provider. OHA does not forecast any Medicaid reimbursement cost increases as it is assumed that any patients served by a tribal traditional health worker will have previously been receiving Medicaid-covered services in a different setting. The agency will need to add a

new provider type to the Medicaid Management Information System, but any costs for this are expected to be minimal.

This measure is linked to Policy Option Package 404 (Tribal Traditional Health Worker) in the OHA 2021-23 budget request. Any funding needs related to this measure will be considered in development of the agency's 2021-23 Legislatively Adopted Budget.