

## SB 719 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Health Care

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**Action Date:** 04/12/21

**Action:** Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

**Vote:** 4-0-1-0

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

**Exc:** 1 - Heard

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**Meeting Dates:** 3/24, 4/12

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Health Authority (OHA) or local public health administrator to release aggregate information about reportable disease investigations upon receipt of a public records request if the release does not identify individual cases or sources of information. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

#### 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:

Replaces the measure.

#### 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 A requires the Oregon Health Authority and local public health administrators to release aggregate information about reportable disease investigations upon receipt of a public records request if the release does not identify individual cases or sources of information.