

HB 2278 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 1/23, 2/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes pharmacists to administer influenza vaccine to persons six months of age or older. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current pediatric influenza vaccination rates
- Other states allowing pharmacists to administer influenza vaccines to children
- Vaccination for Children (VFC) Program
- Other provider types allowed to administer vaccines
- Oregon's ALERT Immunization Information System
- Voluntary nature of proposed authorization

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), annual vaccination is the best way to reduce the risk of serious complications from the seasonal flu which children, particularly those under the age of two, are especially at risk of developing. Currently, pharmacists in Oregon may administer vaccines to children seven years of age and older. Federal regulatory changes made during the COVID-19 public health emergency lowered the authorized age to three years. Parents of children younger than three years of age are often limited to scheduling vaccinations through a medical clinic, which can be a challenge for working parents to coordinate and also impact clinic provider capacity.

House Bill 2278 would authorize pharmacists to administer influenza vaccinations to children six months of age and older.