

## SB 492 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Health Care

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**Action Date:** 04/03/23

**Action:** Without recommendation as to passage, but with amendments and return to President for further referral. (Printed A-Eng.)

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

**Yeas:** 4 - Bonham, Campos, Patterson, President Wagner

**Nays:** 1 - Hayden

**Exc:** 1 - Gorsek

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** Revenue impact issued

**Prepared By:** Maya Green, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/27, 4/3

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to study the Health Evidence Review Commission (HERC), its use of research and evidence, the deliberative processes of its committees and subcommittees, and its use of vendors and experts for research and analysis. Directs the OHA to study the use of the prioritized list of health services to determine access to medically necessary treatment and services. Directs OHA to study the use of quality of life measures in determinations about coverage of treatment. Requires OHA to submit a report to interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health care no later than September 15, 2024. Repeals the act on January 2, 2025.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Research and evidence used in decisions by the Health Evidence Review Commission
- Quality of life measures used to determine placement of conditions and treatment on the prioritized list of services
- Use of the Quality Adjusted Life Year (QALY) metric

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

#### BACKGROUND:

Within the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), the Health Evidence Review Commission (HERC) determines which health care conditions and corresponding treatments will be funded with Medicaid dollars on Oregon's prioritized list. The HERC uses medical research and literature to determine the order of conditions and treatments to be covered. Evidence reviewed by the HERC may include quality of life measures, including the Quality Adjusted Life Year (QALY) metric, a function of length of life and quality of life combined into a single number used to compare different treatments. QALY has been criticized on technical and ethical grounds ([link](#) to article in the journal Health and Quality of Life Outcomes, National Institute of Medicine).

Senate Bill 492 A directs the Oregon Health Authority to study the policies and practices of the Health Evidence Review Commission (HERC), including its use of research, quality of life measures, and the use of the prioritized list in determining coverage of medically necessary treatment for Oregon Health Plan members.