

SB 1061 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 04/04/23

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

Vote: 3-2-0-0

Yeas: 3 - Gelser Blouin, Manning Jr, Prozanski

Nays: 2 - Linthicum, Thatcher

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Patricia Pascone, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/22, 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Cannabis Commission (OCC), the Oregon Health Authority, and the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission to work collaboratively to determine the optimal framework for continued administration of the medical marijuana program and steps to provide safe and affordable access to cannabis and cannabis-derived products. Permits OCC to collaborate and consult with chairpersons of the committees and interim committees on health care and judiciary. Requires OCC to report to the interim committees on health care and judiciary every two years beginning September 15, 2024, regarding the progress made by OCC in carrying out its duties. Permits OCC to make recommendations for legislation. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Inability to work directly with legislators since sunset on authority to request legislation
- Attempted to reestablish authority to work directly with legislature in 2020
- Some but not all recommendations made to Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission resulted in action
- Types of expertise represented in Oregon Cannabis Commission membership

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Cannabis Commission (OCC) was established by House Bill 2198 (2017) and tasked with determining a possible framework for the future governance of the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program and determining steps the state must take to ensure research on cannabis and cannabis-derived products is being conducted for public purposes. It required OCC to report to the committees on health care and judiciary every two years and permitted recommendations for legislation. It also provided authority for OCC to request an interim committee to direct Legislative Counsel to prepare legislative concepts.

Senate Bill 1544 (2018) extended each of these provisions until January 2, 2020. Senate Bill 1561 A (2020), Sec. 48, would have changed OCC's relationship with the Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission from one of providing advice to working collaboratively, and would have required OCC to report to the Legislative Assembly about long-term strategic plans to ensure cannabis would remain a therapeutic option for persons with debilitating medical conditions and ensure cannabis will remain affordable for such persons.

Senate Bill 1061 A requires the Oregon Cannabis Commission (OCC), the Oregon Health Authority, and the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission to work collaboratively to determine the optimal framework for continued administration of the medical marijuana program, and permits OCC to collaborate and consult with chairpersons

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of the committees and interim committees on health care and judiciary and make recommendations for legislation.