

Legislative Fiscal Office

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Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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Representative Tawna Sanchez, House Co-Chair

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Tom MacDonald, Deputy Legislative Fiscal Officer (Budget)
Paul Siebert, Deputy Legislative Fiscal Officer (Audit/IT)

To: Capital Con Subcommittee

From: Matt Stayner, Legislative Fiscal Office

Date: March 5, 2024

Subject: SB 1557 – Relating to services to individuals who are under 21 years of age. Work Session Recommendations

Requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to ensure that all children and youth who are eligible for medical assistance, including children who are in the custody of the Department of Human Services (ODHS), who meet the criteria for an institutional level of care, have access to the home and community-based services to which they are entitled under the Medicaid state plan relating to the Community First Choice Option.

OHA and ODHS are directed to adopt rules to facilitate cross-agency coordination supporting multi-system involved children and youth eligible for services and support funded under the Community First Choice Option

OHA, in collaboration with ODHS, is directed to investigate the services and supports provided to children and youth to avoid placement in certain institutions that are funded through the Community First Choice Option.

OHA is directed to report its findings from the investigation to the Legislature. A preliminary report is due no later than October 1, 2024, a final report is due no later than March 1, 2025.

The measure prohibits OHA, a community mental health program, a licensed medical provider, or other certified or licensed practitioner, an education provider, or a coordinated care organization from denying a child or youth access to mental health assessment, treatment, or services due to a co-occurring intellectual or developmental disability.

OHA is directed to review and amend rules and contracts to ensure that children and youth have timely access to services under the Medicaid state plan relating to the Community First Choice Option.

The measure directs OHA and the Department of Education to develop strategies and recommendations to leverage federal Medicaid or Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) funds and report to the Legislature on the strategies and recommendations developed, no later than October 1, 2024.

The recommended fiscal amendments provide budgetary authority for the Oregon Department of Health to contract a vendor for completion of the required reporting, and to establish a limited-duration position to review and revise administrative rules and coordinate with the contracted vendor. The Department of Administrative services is provided budgetary authority to establish two positions to perform cross-agency coordination, assess existing child welfare program infrastructure, as well as design and implement program changes that do not require legislative or budgetary authority.

Recommended Changes

LFO recommends adoption of the –A7 amendment.

MOTION: I move adoption of the –A7 amendment to SB 1557. (VOTE)

Final Subcommittee Action

LFO recommends that SB 1557, as amended by the –A7 amendment, be moved to the Ways and Means Full Committee.

MOTION: I move SB 1557, as amended, to the Full Committee with a do pass recommendation. (VOTE)

Carriers

Full Committee: _____

House Floor: _____

Senate Floor: _____