

HB 2577 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to establish a pilot program for provision of telehealth in schools. It requires OHA to contract with a telehealth provider to provide health care services to students in certain school districts. The measure establishes requirements for selection of the telehealth provider and for participating school districts. It also establishes reporting requirements, allows OHA to adopt rules, and appropriates \$2 million General Fund to OHA. The measure declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Telehealth uses technology such as voice and video conferencing so that providers may deliver health care services to patients in different physical locations. According to the [National Conference of State Legislatures](#), in states including Massachusetts and Florida, telehealth services have been used to offer mental and behavioral health services in public schools. Recent research published in [Education Finance and Policy](#) indicates there may be a link between the availability of telehealth and reduced absenteeism.

In Oregon, school-based health centers (SBHCs) provide comprehensive physical, mental, and preventative health services to students at school locations. According to the [Oregon Health Authority's 2024 SBHC Report](#), SBHCs provided 12, 214 telehealth visits during the 2022-2023 service year. This represents eight percent of primary care visits and 12 percent of behavioral health visits to SBHCs.