

SB 528 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Prepared By: Daniel Dietz, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates funds to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to add five (5) additional Regional Health Equity Coalitions (RHECs) and for RHEC staff, facilities, members, and partners for services provided.

DETAILED SUMMARY:

- Funds five (5) additional RHECs, for a total of 15.
- Provides additional funding for each coalition for:
 - Two full-time staff positions.
 - Facility expenses.
 - Child care, transportation, and translation services for members.
 - Compensation for members and partners for their services.
- Declares an emergency, effective July 1, 2025.

Fiscal impact: May have fiscal impact, no statement yet issued.

Revenue impact: May have revenue impact, no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Changes number of new RHECs to be funded from five (5) to three (3).

BACKGROUND:

Regional Health Equity Coalitions (RHECs) are community-led, cross-sector groups organized regionally to identify and address health equity issues. RHECs work with communities to identify long-term strategies to increase health equity for communities of color, tribal communities, immigrants, refugees, migrant and seasonal farmworkers, individuals and families with low income, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ communities, with communities of color as the leading priority. The RHEC model was created in 2011 by the Office of Equity and Inclusion at OHA ([Link](#) to Regional Health Equity Coalitions/ [Link](#) to RHEC OAR).

Currently, RHECs represent 21 counties, including:

- Eastern Oregon Health Equity Alliance (Cohort 1 Malheur and Umatilla Counties, Cohort 2 Morrow and Union Counties)
- Linn Benton Lincoln Health Equity Alliance (Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties)
- Mid-Columbia Health Equity Advocates (Hood River and Wasco Counties)
- Oregon Health Equity Alliance (Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties)
- Health Equity Coalition of Marion, Polk and Yamhill Counties (Marion, Polk and Yamhill Counties)
- RISE (Regional Intersectional System-change for Equity of the Umpqua and Willamette Valley Lane and Douglas Counties)
- SO Health-E (Jackson and Josephine Counties)
- South Coast Equity Coalition (Coos and Curry Counties)

Senate Bill 528 funds additional Regional Health Equity Coalitions and provides funding for staff, facilities, and members of existing coalitions.

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Analysis prepared by Aleya García Rivas.

PRELIMINARY