

HB 3576 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

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Meeting Dates: 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) to develop a formula to support the awarding of grants to counties for deflection programs. It specifies that the formula must take into account counties' rurality, number of law enforcement agencies requiring coordination, number of both fatal and nonfatal overdoses, number of drug-related arrests, number of people experiencing homelessness, and the number of people who receive medical assistance. Becomes operative on January 1, 2026. Declares an emergency, effective 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:

In 2020, Oregon voters passed Measure 110 ("Drug Addiction Treatment and Recovery Act"), approving two shifts in how the state deals with the use of illegal drugs. First, the measure reduces penalties for drug possession, making Oregon the first state to decriminalize the personal possession of illegal drugs. Secondly, the savings achieved from the cost of enforcing criminal drug possession penalties are combined with marijuana sales revenue to fund a new drug addiction treatment and recovery grant program. Senate Bill 755 (2021) modified some of the requirements of Measure 110. That measure also established Behavioral Health Resource Networks (BHRNs), which are a group of organizations that partner to provide substance use services free of charge to individuals seeking care. The measure requires a BHRN to be established in each county and tribal area in the state and established a process for grants to be awarded via the Oversight and Accountability Council. According to the Oregon Health Authority, there are currently 42 BHRNs and 151 BHRN partners.

During the 2024 Session, the Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 4002 and House Bill 5204, reintroducing potential criminal penalties for drug possession while also investing over \$200 million improving access to behavioral health services. Over \$20 million of the money invested were direct allocations for 23 counties that had indicated an intent to implement a deflection program. House Bill 4002 defined "deflection program" as "a collaborative program between law enforcement agencies and behavioral health entities that assists individuals who may have substance use disorder, another behavioral health disorder or co-occurring disorders, to create community-based pathways to treatment, recovery support services, housing, case management or other services."

House Bill 3576 transfers the responsibilities of the Oversight and Accountability Council for providing grants to help fund behavioral health resource networks to the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission.