

SB 729 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Reynolds

Senate Committee On Human Services

Action Date: 02/18/25

Action: Do pass.

Vote: 4-0-1-0

Yeas: 4 - Gelser Blouin, Nash, Prozanski, Reynolds

Exc: 1 - Linthicum

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Matthew Perreault, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/11, 2/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure expands the scope of an existing prohibition against denying access to mental health services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) that currently applies to the Oregon Health Authority to include all public bodies. Further, the measure expands this prohibition that currently applies to individuals up to age 21 so that it applies to individuals of all ages. The measure takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impact of enacting provisions into state law
- Interaction with existing federal statutes and case law
- Information, education, and enforcement of anti-discrimination provisions
- Ability of individuals with IDD to access mental health service providers

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2024, the legislature enacted [Senate Bill 1557](#), which directed the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to guarantee access to mental health services to eligible youth up to age 21 under the Community First Choice option for the state Medicaid plan, commonly known as the "K Plan." The bill also mandated systemic integration between OHA and the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) to improve availability of services to youth involved in multiple systems of care, including the child welfare, developmental disabilities, juvenile justice, and special education systems. Additionally, the bill prohibited OHA and other health and medical providers from denying access to mental health services on the basis of an individual's intellectual or developmental disability.