



Legislative Fiscal Office
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Prepared by: MaryMichelle Sosne
Reviewed by: Matt Stayner, Emily Coates
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Bill Title: Relating to provider networks.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Oregon Health Authority, Department of Consumer and Business Services

Summary of Fiscal Impact

Costs related to the measure are indeterminate at this time - see explanatory analysis.

Measure Description

The measure directs the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) to adopt rules to ensure all carriers offering individual or group health benefit plans in Oregon provide coverage for mental health services, substance use disorder treatment, and reproductive health care. The measure requires this care to be accessible to all enrollees and be conducted in an appropriate and culturally competent manner. DCBS must establish rules for evaluating the adequacy of provider networks for these carriers which should include a review of geographic distance between enrollees' homes and workplaces, provider-to-patient ratios and wait times for receiving care. The measure takes effect on January 1, 2026.

Fiscal Analysis

The expansion of coverage for health benefit plans may be considered a new mandate under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. This Act requires states to offset the cost of required benefits for plans issued through the health insurance marketplace. Federal guidance does not clarify whether these offsets must be paid out of the General Fund or from other state funds such as marketplace assessment funds. If coverage of these services is considered a new mandate, the bill may have a fiscal impact for the state.

The fiscal impact of the measure on the Public Employees' Benefit Board (PEBB) or the Oregon Educators' Benefit Board (OEBB), budgeted within the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), is indeterminate and cannot be projected until DCBS completes its rulemaking. Legislation resulting in an impact on revenues or expenditures related to the health care benefits provided by PEBB and OEBB will impact the employers that provide this coverage for their employees. These employers include state agencies, school districts, education service districts, community colleges, some charter schools, and several local governments. OHA may return to the legislature for additional resources if the effect of DCBS' rulemaking results in a significant impact to PEBB or OEBB premiums.

The fiscal impact of the measure on DCBS is minimal. DCBS estimates the required rulemaking equates to 110 hours and can be processed using existing staff. The department will continue to monitor carrier compliance during regularly scheduled market conduct exams.

Relevant Dates

The measure takes effect on January 1, 2026.