

**SB 691 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health**

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**Action Date:** 04/03/25

**Action:** Do pass with amendments. Refer to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng).

**Vote:** 4-1-0-0

**Yeas:** 4 - Anderson, Gorsek, Patterson, Reynolds

**Nays:** 1 - Linthicum

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Katie Hart, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/18, 4/3

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure expands a project for improved maternal and neonatal outcomes and changes medical assistance coverage requirements for pregnant women and women with infants who have a substance use disorder.

Detailed Summary:

Directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to distribute funds to Oregon Health & Sciences University (OHSU) to support an entity within OHSU that supports improved maternal and neonatal care.

- Directs the entity to provide technical assistance to new and existing sites that provide perinatal care and substance use disorder treatment to people who are pregnant or parents of infants.
- Directs OHA to provide grants to new and existing sites.
- Requires OHA to enter a memorandum of understanding with new sites by November 1, 2025.
- Directs OHA to submit a report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to perinatal health and provide recommendations for legislation to support and expand programs by December 1, 2026.

Allocates \$6,500,000 from the General Fund to OHA for the 2025-2027 biennium to support measure provisions.

- Allocates \$500,000 to provide technical assistance to new and existing sites.
- Allocates \$5,000,000 to provide grant support to new sites.
- Allocates \$1,000,000 to provide grant support to existing sites.

Requires the Oregon Health Authority and Coordinated Care Organizations to cover certain services for people with a substance use disorder who are pregnant or parents of infants.

- Requires the coverage of peer support services in all clinical settings.
- Requires the coverage a hospital inpatient stay for stabilization from opioid use during pregnancy for as long as medically necessary and appropriate.
- Requires the coverage of a hospital inpatient stay after delivery for medication management for substance use disorder, care coordination, social work support, breastfeeding supports, and infant-family bonding for as long as medically necessary and appropriate.

Permits OHA to seek any necessary approvals from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to carry out measure provisions. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Impact of the measure.

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Replaces the measure.

**BACKGROUND:**

## SB 691 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Substance use disorder was identified as a contributing factor in 41 percent of pregnancy-related deaths in Oregon between 2017-2020 ([Oregon Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee Biennial Report, 2023](#)). In 2015, Project Nurture began to provide prenatal care, inpatient maternity care, and postpartum care for women with substance use disorders, as well as pediatric care for their infants. Project Nurture was expanded by the Oregon Legislature in 2020 to provide services in rural areas including Deschutes, Jackson, Lincoln, Malheur, and Umatilla Counties ([Nurture Oregon Progress, 2023](#)).

[Oregon Revised Statute \(ORS\) Chapter 414](#) governs services covered to people accessing medical assistance, including services provided by peer support specialists. A clinic or organization can bill the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) for services if the organization is enrolled with OHA as a Medicaid provider and has a certificate of approval as required by [ORS 430.637](#). Medical assistance will pay for hospital birth for all members.

Senate Bill 691 A allocates funding to Oregon Health & Sciences University to expand Project Nurture. It also requires the OHA and Coordinated Care Organizations to cover peer support services in any clinical setting, as well as inpatient hospital stays in certain situations when a person who is pregnant or has just delivered a baby has a substance use disorder.