House Bill 2751

Sponsored by Representative EVANS (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced.** The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act tells OHA to create a project to expand the services for which community health workers may be paid. (Flesch Readability Score: 68.0).

Directs the Oregon Health Authority to administer a two-year demonstration project in two counties to test whether expanding the scope of compensable services provided by community health workers can improve outcomes for low-income families and children at risk of entering the foster care system.

Sunsets January 2, 2030.

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Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

- 2 Relating to community health worker services; and prescribing an effective date.
- 3 Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:
- 4 SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:
 - (a) "Community health worker" has the meaning given that term in ORS 414.025.
 - (b) "Social services" means services provided to a family to support the family's need for subsistence, including but not limited to:
 - (A) Temporary assistance for needy families under ORS 412.006;
- 9 (B) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits under ORS 411.816;
- 10 (C) Women, Infants and Children Program benefits under ORS 413.500;
 - (D) Public housing or federal, state or local housing assistance; or
- 12 (E) Medical assistance, as defined in ORS 414.025.
 - (2) The Oregon Health Authority shall administer a two-year demonstration project in Marion and Polk Counties designed to reduce the overall burden and cost on social services systems while improving outcomes for low-income families, including by keeping children out of the foster care system. The demonstration project will give community health workers flexibility in working with families with children who are receiving or eligible to receive social services, or who are at risk of entering the foster care system, by enabling the community health workers to be compensated for providing services to the families that are based on and focused on addressing an assessment of a family's social determinants of health and that are otherwise not reimbursed by the state.
 - (3) The demonstration project will use the Activate Care technology platform or a similar platform that allows for the tracking of data and referrals across all state and local agencies and community-based organizations working with a family or available to serve a family's needs. The authority shall use the data from the platform to associate services that are not currently reimbursed with existing billing codes so that, if the project is successful, the services can be integrated into the state billing system to be reimbursed in the future.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

- (4) The authority shall track the data and referrals and conduct assessments of families working with community health workers in the demonstration project to monitor health outcomes and other measures of well-being developed by the authority.
- (5) No later than September 15, 2029, the authority shall report to interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to human services, in the manner provided in ORS 192.245, on the effectiveness of the demonstration project in:
 - (a) Improving health outcomes for and financial stability of families;
 - (b) Reducing overall costs to and burdens on state agencies; and
 - (c) Improving the safety and well-being of children.

SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2025 Act becomes operative on January 2, 2026. The Oregon Health Authority shall enter into contracts and take all steps prior to January 2, 2026, that are necessary to begin the demonstration project described in section 1 of this 2025 Act on January 2, 2026.

SECTION 3. Sections 1 and 2 of this 2025 Act are repealed on January 2, 2030.

SECTION 4. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Oregon Health Authority, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$______, which may be expended for carrying out section 1 of this 2025 Act.

<u>SECTION 5.</u> This 2025 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2025 regular session of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.