

House Bill 3631

Sponsored by Representative BOSHART DAVIS, Senator PATTERSON, Representative LEVY E, Senator ANDERSON

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 creates a pilot program to provide youth mental health and substance use prevention services. (Flesch Readability Score: 63.6).

Directs the Oregon Health Authority to establish a thriving youth pilot program to provide substance use prevention education through comprehensive out-of-school programming and access to specialized mental or behavioral health services to youth in 20 counties in this state. Requires the authority to submit an interim report on the outcomes of the pilot program and a report on the feasibility of extending the pilot program.

Sunsets the pilot program on January 2, 2029.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to youth behavioral health services; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) The Oregon Health Authority shall establish a thriving youth pilot program to provide substance use prevention education and improve youth mental health through comprehensive out-of-school programming and access to specialized mental or behavioral health services to youth in 20 counties in this state, with a focus on youth in remote or underserved communities.

(2) The authority shall partner with a statewide community-based organization to administer the program. The statewide community-based organization must have partnerships with an existing network of positive youth development entities that provide comprehensive out-of-school programming with a proven positive impact on the well-being of youth between the ages of 6 and 18.

(3) The statewide community-based organization shall work with qualified community partners, as determined by the statewide community-based organization, to:

(a) Implement an evidence-based prevention curriculum to increase positive behavior, reduce substance use and reduce absenteeism among youth;

(b) Implement staff training in trauma-informed, evidence-based behavioral strategies that promote the development of self-regulation in youth, reduce conflict between youth and adults and improve relationships; and

(c) Connect youth with licensed mental health professionals, certified prevention specialists or other qualified providers, as determined by the statewide community-based organization, that provide early intervention and prevention services in a community-based setting.

(4)(a) No later than September 15, 2026, the authority shall provide an interim report, in the manner provided in ORS 192.245, to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly

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.

1 related to youth behavioral health on the following outcomes of the pilot program for par-
2 ticipating youth:

3 (A) Social development;

4 (B) Mental health; and

5 (C) Well-being, including sense of belonging, supportive relationships and positive
6 decision-making.

7 (b) No later than September 15, 2027, the authority shall provide a report, in the manner
8 provided in ORS 192.245, to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to
9 youth behavioral health on the feasibility of extending the pilot program established under
10 this section.

11 **SECTION 2.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
12 ated to the Oregon Health Authority, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, out of the
13 General Fund, the amount of \$8,000,000, which may be expended to carry out the pilot pro-
14 gram described in section 1 of this 2025 Act.

15 **SECTION 3.** Section 1 of this 2025 Act is repealed on January 2, 2029.

16 **SECTION 4.** This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
17 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect
18 on its passage.
19
