

SB 1598 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Prepared By: Daniel Dietz, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/9, 2/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires state-regulated health plan coverage of preventive health services at June 30, 2025 standards, and future immunizations recommended by the Public Health Officer; authorizes the Public Health Officer to issue standing orders for drugs and devices.

Requires health plans to cover:

- Preventive health services prescribed by the United States Department of Health as of June 30, 2025.
- Immunizations recommended by the Public Health Officer, who is appointed by the Director of Oregon Health Authority pursuant to ORS 431.045.

Provides authority for the Public Health Officer to:

- Issue recommendations based on consideration of evidence-based guidance and recommendations from medical and scientific organizations.
- Publish recommendations to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) website, specifying the medical purpose, the class of individuals to be covered, and any instructions for administration.
- Issue and withdraw a standing order to prescribe a drug or device to prevent, mitigate, or treat any significant health concern.
- Solicit input from local health officers for the geographic area to which the standing order will apply unless a delay is likely to endanger public health.

Specifies that a standing order may not require a person to receive, use, or administer, or withhold a drug or device. Requires health plans to begin coverage within 15 days of published recommendations from the Public Health Officer. Exempts from civil liability the Public Health Officer and any practitioner who prescribes or administers drugs in good faith. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

Fiscal impact: Fiscal statement issued, has minimal fiscal impact.

Revenue impact: Revenue statement issued, no revenue impact.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Limits authority of Public Health Officer to implementing policies expressly authorized in statute.

- Specifies that the authority of the Public Health Officer is limited to implementing policies expressly authorized in statute.
- Requires recommendations and standing orders to be narrowly tailored to address a specific and demonstrable public health risk.
- Specifies that neither the Public Health Officer nor the Oregon Health Authority may override the rights of parents or legal guardians to make medical decisions for minor children.
- Clarifies that vaccine schedules established by a parent and a medical provider that differ from those established by the Public Health Officer may not be used to exclude students from participating in school and activities.
- Requires the Oregon Health Authority to submit an annual report to the Legislative Assembly on all recommendations, standing orders, and administrative rules issued by the Public Health Officer.

Directs the Department of Consumer and Business Services to require state-regulated insurers and pharmacy benefit managers to report annually on co-pay accumulator programs. Additionally, directs DCBS to:

- Establish a multistate purchasing authority and require state entities to purchase prescription drugs through the Oregon Prescription Drug Program;
- Report annually to the Legislative Assembly about the Oregon Prescription Drug Program;
- Centralize Medicaid drug purchasing and pharmacy purchasing and analytics.

BACKGROUND:

Beginning in 2010, the Affordable Care Act required health plans to cover specified preventive services without cost-sharing ([42 U.S.C. § 300gg-13](#)). Covered services include those recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Health Resources and Services Administration. Since June of 2025, some preventive services have been removed from universal recommendation schedules, though they may still be covered by insurance (Link to [ACIP Recommendations](#)).

In Oregon, the Director of the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) appoints a Public Health Officer responsible for medical aspects of programs within OHA([ORS 431.045](#)). The OHA Director also appoints a Public Health Director to exercise authority over public health emergency matters ([ORS 431.035](#)). The OHA Director may appoint one person to serve as Public Health Director and Public Health Officer ([ORS 431.035](#)).

Senate Bill 1598 requires coverage preventive health services at June 30, 2025 standards, or as recommended by the Public Health Officer.