

SB 1598 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Reynolds

Senate Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 02/11/26

Action: Do pass.

Vote: 3-2-0-0

Yea: 3 - Campos, Patterson, Reynolds

Nay: 2 - Hayden, Linthicum

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Daniel Dietz, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/9, 2/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires state-regulated health plans to cover specified preventive health services and authorizes the state's public health officer to make recommendations for services to be covered and issue standing orders for providers to dispense drugs and devices. The measure declares an emergency, effective on its passage.

Detailed Summary:

Requires health plans to cover the following:

- Preventive health services schedules under federal public health authorities as of July 30, 2025
- Preventive services recommended by the public health officer, who is appointed by the director of Oregon Health Authority (OHA) pursuant to ORS 431.045

Provides authority for the public health officer to do the following:

- Issue recommendations based on consideration of evidence-based guidance and recommendations from medical and scientific organizations
- Publish recommendations to OHA's 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, 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.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Scope of the public health officer's authority
- Rights of parents and legal guardians to make decisions for their children
- Civil liability for public health officer and providers of preventive health services

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Beginning in 2010, the federal Affordable Care Act required health plans to cover specified preventive services without cost-sharing. Covered services include those recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force,

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the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, and the Health Resources and Services Administration. Since June 2025, some preventive services have been removed from [universal recommendation schedules](#), though they may still be covered by insurance.

In Oregon, the OHA director appoints a public health officer responsible for the medical aspects of OHA programs ([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 both the public health director and the public health officer (ORS 431.035).