

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference
Vote: 7 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Berger, Buckley, Esquivel, Hunt, Roblan, Thatcher, Rosenbaum
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Jim Keller and Jim Stembridge, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 6/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Department of Human Services to bolster preparedness in the event of pandemic influenza, including purchase of personal protective equipment, influenza vaccines, or antiviral drugs, and provision of personnel for training and supply distribution. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2007.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Potential impact of a pandemic in Oregon
- Information from the department of Health and Human Services

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment

BACKGROUND: Pandemic flu results when virulent human flu virus causes a global outbreak of serious illness. Because there would be little natural immunity, the disease could spread easily from person to person. Although there is no flu pandemic now, flu pandemics are known to occur periodically. The 1918 “Spanish flu”, for example, was the 20th century’s largest pandemic and killed at least 500,000 people in the United States and up to 40 million worldwide. There were smaller pandemics in 1957 and 1968, in which influenza-caused death rates were higher than normal. Influenza causes some 36,000 deaths and 200,000 hospitalizations in the United States each year.

Currently, Oregon is not stockpiling equipment or vaccines for pandemic flu. HB 2814-A appropriates funding sufficient to purchase personal protection for more than 100,000 public health professionals, state police, local police, sheriff’s officers, fire rescue personnel, emergency medical technicians, members of the National Guard, doctors, nurses, other hospital and long term care staff, and emergency utility workers.