

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

Action:	Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
Vote:	4 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	George G., Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Morrisette
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Verger
Prepared By:	Ilana Weinbaum, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to implement a Hepatitis C Strategic Plan for the state to enhance knowledge and understanding of the disease among Oregonians. Specifies that, as part of the plan, DHS must: 1) promote public awareness about risk factors of the disease, the value of early detection, and screening and treatment options; and 2) provide health care workers with training about the transmission, detection and treatment of the disease. Requires the department to establish a voluntary hepatitis C testing pilot program. Allows DHS to award grants or contracts for activities included in the strategic plan.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Prevalence of hepatitis C
- Populations most at risk for infection
- Lack of funding for hepatitis C prevention, testing, education, and treatment
- Proposed funding not included in Governor's Recommended Budget

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Hepatitis C (HCV) is the most common chronic blood-borne viral infection in the United States, with an estimated 3.9 million people infected, of whom 2.7 million are chronically infected. It is estimated that nearly 65,000 Oregonians are infected with HCV and an estimated 13,000 to 19,500 Oregonians are likely to develop HCV-related cirrhosis unless their disease is treated and progression is halted. In 2003, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) awarded the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) funding to hire a HCV coordinator to: 1) conduct an ongoing community-based needs assessment; 2) create a clearinghouse of HCV information and resources; and 3) develop training modules for persons doing HCV counseling and testing. DHS has developed a comprehensive Hepatitis C Strategic Plan to increase awareness and education, increase prevention efforts to decrease infection rate, provide disease management for those infected with HCV, and provide surveillance and research to help better understand the distribution and effects of HCV on Oregonians.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.