

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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**Action:** Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means  
**Vote:** 8 - 0 - 1  
**Yeas:** Boone, Cowan, Dembrow, Freeman, Maurer, Olson, VanOrman, Tomei  
**Nays:** 0  
**Exc.:** Huffman  
**Prepared By:** Keely West, Administrator  
**Meeting Dates:** 4/3, 4/17, 4/24

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires Department of Human Services to develop rules for prescription and monitoring of psychotropic drugs taken by children in foster care. Mandates assessment by qualified mental health professional or licensed medical professional with expertise in children's mental health. Mandates annual review of medications and appropriate indicators for determining that psychotropic medications should be prescribed.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Need to link medical and mental health providers and assessments
- Responsibility for annual review of medications
- Range of medications encompassed by the measure
- Difficulty in getting assessments
- Required frequency of assessments
- Range of treatment options and treatment plan
- Whether non-prescribers should make assessments

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Changes standards for required prescription review to qualified mental health professional or licensed medical professional with expertise in children's mental health.

**BACKGROUND:** In the autumn of 2007, the *Oregonian* reported about the fragmented medical and behavioral health care systems encountered by foster children and their caregivers. Department of Human Services Director Bruce Goldberg formed a workgroup to identify root causes and potential solutions and reported to the Legislative Assembly in February 2008.