

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote:	9 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Gilliam, Krieger, Matthews, Riley, Smith J., Tomei, Whisnant, Wingard, Holvey
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Patrick Brennan, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/4, 2/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes the Temporary High Risk Pool Program. Specifies that program is to be administered by the Oregon Medical Insurance Pool Board. Authorizes Oregon Health Authority to seek approval from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for federal funding for the program. Becomes operative upon receipt of federal approval. Sunsets January 2, 2016. Declares an emergency and takes effect upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Alternative amendments
- Anticipated timelines for federal health care legislation
- Oregon Medical Insurance Pool
- Fiscal impact

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces original measure.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon Medical Insurance Pool (OMIP) is the state's high-risk health insurance pool. Created in 1990, the program spent about \$180 million in 2009, and currently insures about 15,000 Oregonians who fall into one or more of the three following categories: those who are unable to obtain commercial medical insurance because of pre-existing health conditions; those who are eligible for portability coverage but have no access to commercial Oregon portability plans; and those who are eligible for an 80 percent Federal Health Coverage Tax Credit because they lost their employment due to foreign trade or their company declared bankruptcy and they fall under the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation. OMIP enrollees cover about 50 percent of the program's medical and drug claim costs through premium payments, with the remaining cost covered by an assessment on commercial insurance companies doing business in Oregon. Oregon is one of 34 states with a high-risk pool.

The national health reform legislation currently under consideration in Congress is looking to state high-risk pools as an interim measure to make health insurance available to uninsured individuals until broader market reforms could take effect. Both the House and Senate versions of the health care reform bills currently contain provisions that require the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a Temporary National High Risk Pool Program. It is anticipated that such a program would utilize the existing state high-risk pools, while creating them in states that do not currently have one.