

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference

Vote: 9 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Cannon, Harker, Hoyle, Kennemer, Kotek, Maurer, Nathanson, Thompson, Greenlick

Nays: 0

Exc.: Bruun

Prepared By: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/4, 2/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs Public Employees’ Benefit Board and Oregon Educators Benefit Board to contract for health benefit plan to serve limited geographic region of state under specified circumstances. Changes language from “shall offer a benefit plan” to “shall evaluate a benefit plan.” Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Ability of regional providers to compete for state bids
- Concerns relating to implementation of Senate Bill 426 (2007)
- Review of current statutory authority and procedures
- Importance of competition
- Current Boards’ authority
- Proposed amendment

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Changes language from “shall offer a benefit plan” to “shall evaluate a benefit plan.”

BACKGROUND: SB 426 (2007) was enacted by the 74th Legislative Assembly. The bill established the Oregon Educators’ Benefit Board (OEBB) within the Department of Administrative Services. The purpose of this Board is to contract for health and dental plans and other benefits for employees of most all school districts and education service districts. Districts that are self-insured or districts that have independent health trusts are not required to receive benefits through OEBB if the premiums for their benefit plans are equal to or less than the premiums for comparable benefit plans provided by the Board. Community college districts may also provide or contract for benefit plans other than those provided by OEBB.