FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Seventy-Sixth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2011 Regular Session Legislative Fiscal Office

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Measure Description:

Requires Oregon Health Authority to establish and administer a statewide injury and violence prevention program.

Measure: SB 108 - A

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

The proposed legislation has been determined to have minimal expenditure on the Oregon Health Authority.

SB 108A requires the Oregon Health Authority to establish and administer a statewide injury and violence prevention program. The bill permits OHA to collect and analyze data; develop and revise a comprehensive state plan; provide technical support and training; produce reports; conduct studies; collaborate with researchers and other entities; publish compilations; and to adopt rules necessary to carry out this program. The bill also allows OHA to accept gifts, grants or contributions for the purpose of administering this program.

Currently, a small Injury and Violence Prevention Program exists within the Public Health Division of OHA. Although the program has some funding that has been approved in the current budget, OHA has run into barriers when seeking additional funding from federal and private sources; as well as difficulty in collaborating with and collecting data from other entities because there is no explicit authority defining the program and its core activities in statutes. For example, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention grand funding requirements include a preference for states that already have statutory authority enabling program development. According to OHA, if this bill passes, there is no expenditure impact to the agency because the permissive language of the bill provides this explicit enabling authority without any new mandates to OHA.

However, the Legislative Fiscal Office notes that if OHA undertake the activities permitted by this measure, and the costs to carry out these activities exceed available funding, this could put upward cost pressure not only on the agency's budget, but also the State's General Fund. Such decisions could lead to agency requests from a future legislature or Emergency Board for more General Fund through the rebalance process.

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