

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 4 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Bates, Kruse, Shields, Monnes Anderson
Nays: 0
Exc.: Morse
Prepared By: Brian Nieubuurt, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 5/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Clarifies the authority of the laboratory of the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to examine excretions and environmental samples and to perform examinations for government agencies and licensed practitioners outside of Oregon. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Alignment of statutory language with current practices
- Size and financial impact of testing done for out-of-state entities

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) has been supporting state and local infectious disease control efforts since 1903. OSPHL's primary responsibility is to provide testing of community health importance that will protect, preserve, and promote the health of all the people of Oregon. OSPHL's main clients are county health departments and other local agencies which address community-level health issues while offering selected health care services to those who do not have access to private providers.

OSPHL tests hundreds of thousands of samples each year that are submitted by government agencies and practitioners outside of Oregon. Currently, OSPHL tests every newborn infant in six states (OR, ID, AK, NV, HI, NM), as well as on a few military bases and tribal health facilities, for over 40 disorders; the laboratory has a screening contract with all of these states. Additionally, samples for communicable disease testing are often submitted to OSPHL from licensed practitioners in other states, independent of any intergovernmental agreement. OSPHL indicates that out-of-state testing amounts to approximately eight million tests on over 200,000 samples per year, with the resulting revenue accounting for over one-half of the entire OSPHL budget.

House Bill 2112 brings statutory language into alignment with OSPHL's current practices by not only clarifying what OSPHL may test but also its authority to test for out-of-state entities. The Oregon Department of Justice indicates that this latter clarification is needed for it to continue approving OSPHL contracts with these out-of-state entities.

5/4/2011 2:48:00 PM

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