

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
<b>Vote:</b>	5 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Bates, Kruse, Morse, Shields, Monnes Anderson
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Brian Nieubuert, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	5/4, 5/16

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Authorizes State Board of Pharmacy to adopt rules allowing pharmacists to prescribe and administer vaccines to persons who are at least 11 years of age for enrollment and participation in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Billing and payment for vaccines under Medicaid
- House amendment to limit prescription authority to VFC Program
- Kinds of vaccines that can be administered
- Vaccine administration training
- Data entry into Immunization ALERT system

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** Pharmacists play a role in providing vaccine administration and education to individuals. Rural areas are commonly underserved by medical personnel who can administer vaccines and immunizations to children; and pharmacists currently administer 85 percent of the flu shots in Oregon. Under ORS 689.645 pharmacists are allowed to administer influenza vaccinations and immunizations to persons 11 years of age or older if the pharmacist has special accreditation or certification.

The VFC Program, established by Congress in 1993, is a federally funded program that provides vaccines at no cost to children who might not otherwise be vaccinated because of inability to pay. The VFC Program is administered at the national level by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. CDC contracts with vaccine manufacturers to buy vaccines at reduced rates. Enrolled VFC providers are able to order vaccines through the state's VFC Program and receive routine vaccines at no cost.

House Bill 3138-A allows pharmacists to become VFC providers to immunize Medicaid children 11 through 18 years of age and to receive reimbursement.

5/17/2011 4:25:00 PM

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