

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	8 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Frederick, Greenlick, Harker, Parrish, Thompson, Weidner, Gilliam, Tomei
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Jennifer Kellar, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/16, 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to suspend medical assistance for inmates of public institutions who are expected to remain in the correctional facility for no more than twelve months. Requires inmate release notification to agencies and stipulates exceptions to eligibility extensions. Requires Department of Human Services (DHS) and OHA to jointly report to the legislature no later than May 31, 2013 on the feasibility of requiring medical assistance suspensions to inmates incarcerated for more than twelve months. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Fiscal savings and time reduction to agency by inmates reinstating versus reapplying for medical assistance
- Utilization of similar process by other states
- Expedient destabilization of inmates without access to medication

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Modifies provision to require DHS and OHA to suspend, rather than terminate, the medical assistance for inmates who are expected to remain in the correctional facility for no more than twelve months. Requires inmate release notification to agencies and stipulates exceptions to eligibility extensions. Requires DHS and OHA to jointly report to the legislature no later than May 31, 2013 on the feasibility of requiring medical assistance suspensions to inmates incarcerated for more than twelve months.

BACKGROUND: Under Senate Bill 913, when a person with a serious mental illness who receives medical benefits under Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) Chapter 414 because of the serious mental illness, are incarcerated at a public institution, DHS suspends the individual's medical assistance. The current measure models Senate Bill 913 and include s all other inmates be eligible to reapply in advance for continuous coverage. Upon release, the recipient must go through the process of re-applying for benefits which can take between 90 and 120 days. In the case of individuals with serious mental illnesses, this can mean a significant period of time off medications which may result in decomposition and/or a return to custody. Under House Bill 3536 A, upon notice that the person, not solely a covered individual with a mental illness, is no longer incarcerated, OHA is directed to reinstate the person's medical assistance if they are otherwise ineligible. The measure does not extend eligibility for medical assistance if matching federal funds are not available to pay for medical assistance.

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