

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Without Recommendation as to Passage, but with Amendments and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote:	4 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Knopp, Kruse, Shields, Monnes Anderson
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Steiner Hayward
Prepared By:	Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/11, 4/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Prohibits insurer offering health benefit plan from denying reimbursement for service or supply covered by plan or canceling coverage of insured under plan based on insured being in custody of county sheriff's office; insured receiving publicly funded medical care while in custody of county sheriff's office; or care was provided to insured by employee of or contractor with county sheriff's office. Specifies provider may not bill for amount greater than Medicare reimburses for billed service.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current expenses for county sheriff's departments
- Request for data on how many individuals in custody have insurance
- Medicaid coverage is discontinued
- Most insurance policies have a statement in the contract relating to arrests
- Potential fiscal impact

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces original measure.

BACKGROUND: Currently, when an individual is arrested, whether by the Oregon State Police, a City Police Officer or by a Sheriff's Deputy, the individual is housed in the county jail. The length of stay can be days, weeks, months and maybe years. Once the individual is placed in custody, Federal health care programs stop (Veterans Benefits, Medicaid, Medicare), state benefits stop (Oregon Health Plan) and private insurance coverage stops, leaving the inmate's health care costs to the public safety budget of the Office of Sheriff. The Oregon State Sheriffs' Association asserts that as health care costs increase, other functions of the Sheriff's office are underfunded.

Senate Bill 457-A prohibits private insurance companies from denying coverage or canceling a policy solely because the insured is in the custody of county jail and uses medical services from emergency rooms to hospital beds for outpatient services. The providers will be prohibited from charging more than the Medicare reimbursement rate.