

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 3 - 2 - 0

Yeas: Shields, Steiner Hayward, Monnes Anderson

Nays: Knopp, Kruse

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/13, 5/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Removes exemptions from health insurance coverage requirement for treatment resulting from driving under the influence conviction. Resolves language conflict between ORS 743A.168 and ORS 813.021. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of substance abuse treatment
- New mandate versus existing mandate
- Court ordered substance abuse treatment versus medical treatment
- Current insurers contract language excluding benefit coverage for DUII
- Affordable Care Act definition of mandate
- Remaining concerns relating to new mandate
- Proposed amendment

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Resolves language conflict between ORS 743A.168 (exclusion for court ordered screening) and 813.021 relating (requires the person convicted to pay for the cost of the program or screening).

BACKGROUND: Currently, Oregon statute exempts an insurer that provides coverage for hospital or medical expenses arising from treatment for chemical dependency or mental or nervous condition from covering screening interviews and treatment programs required by court order as part of a conviction for driving while under the influence (DUI) of intoxicants. There are no other exemptions for criminal acts leading to court-ordered treatment.

Proponents assert that individuals ordered to undergo screening and treatment after a DUI conviction are generally in crisis, and if denied coverage for these treatments are less likely to complete the court-ordered program, less likely to receive help and more likely to be a future public safety risk.

House Bill 2385-A deletes the existing exemption with the intent of increasing access to addiction treatment programs for those in need.

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