

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Williamson
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Winters

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and as Printed A-Engrossed

Vote: 24 – 2 – 0

House

Yeas: Buckley, Frederick, Freeman, Hanna, Huffman, Jenson, Komp, McLane, Nathanson,
Richardson, Smith, Tomei, Williamson

Nays:

Exc: Barker, Read

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Devlin, Edwards, Girod, Hansell, Johnson, Monroe, Steiner Hayward, Thomsen, Whitsett, Winters

Nays:

Exc:

Prepared By: Kim To, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: June 6, 2013

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes a 13-member Work Group on Corrections Health Care Costs charged with recommending legislation to be introduced in the 2014 session of the Legislative Assembly to establish appropriate mechanisms to lower health care costs of the Department of Corrections. The work group is required to submit its recommendation to an interim legislative committee by January 1, 2014.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Fiscal impact
- Adding county sheriff and Oregon Youth Authority to work group membership
- Extending the reporting date to January 1, 2014 to allow work group more time

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Adds county sheriff and Oregon Youth Authority to work group membership; and extends the reporting date to January 1, 2014 to allow work group more time.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) Health Services is responsible for providing medical care to over 14,000 prisoners across the state, incarcerated with the fourteen institutions of the DOC State Prison system. DOC Health Services provides health care to inmates at each state institution operated by DOC. State and federal laws have established that inmates are entitled to health care during incarceration. Health care services available to inmates must be comparable to health care provided in the community in order to meet the state's legal obligation. This means that all types and levels of health care be provided in a clinically appropriate manner by properly credentialed professionals in settings equipped and designed for the delivery of health care. Health care includes medical, dental and psychiatric/mental health services.

The Health Services Division is comprised of an administrative unit which sets policy and long-term direction and a series of operational units representing the health care program at each facility. The health care program at each of the correctional institutions operated by the department is responsible for delivering health care to inmates consistent with policy centrally established by the division. The Health Services Division employs more than 500 health care personnel and manages a number of agreements with health care organizations in communities throughout Oregon and the surrounding states in order to deliver constitutionally adequate health care.