

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Buckley
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Bates

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure as Amended and as Printed B-Engrossed

Vote: 25 – 0 – 1

House

Yeas: Barker, Buckley, Frederick, Freeman, Hanna, Huffman, Jensen, Komp, Nathanson, Read, Richardson, Smith, Tomei, Williamson

Nays:

Exc: McLane

Senate

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

Nays:

Exc:

Prepared By: Matt Stayner, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: June 26, 2013

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: The measure consists of three major components: requiring coverage for Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) to be included in health benefit plans; the establishment of the Behavior Analysis Regulatory Board (BARB) within the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA) to provide licensure and regulatory oversight for practitioners of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA); and a requirement that the Health Evidence Review Commission (HERC) evaluate ABA as a treatment for ASD for the purpose of updating the list of health services recommended under ORS 414.890. The measure sets forth implementation dates for adjustment to list of health services resulting from HERC review; Requires coverage as provided in the bill by PEBB and OEBC for policy periods beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2015 and all carriers for policies beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2016. The bill contains sunset provisions that remove the requirement for coverage of ASD by health benefit plans as of 1/2/2022, but retains provisions relating to the BARB and OHLA.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Implementation timeline

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Removes the mandatory coverage by coordinated care organizations under the state Medical Assistance Program (MAP); extends the timeframe by one year for a decision made by an independent review organization that requires an insurer to continue providing applied behavior analysis; removes provision that unlicensed practitioner of ABA may claim reimbursement from the MAP prior to 1/1/2016; eliminates changes to ORS 414.710; requires the Health Evidence Review Commission to evaluate applied behavior analysis as defined in the bill for the Prioritized List of Health Services; sets forth implementation dates for adjustment to list of health services resulting from HERC review; and requires coverage as provided in the bill by PEBB and OEBC for policy periods beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2015 and all carriers for policies beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2016.

BACKGROUND: Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and autism are general terms for a group of complex disorders of brain development. These disorders are characterized, in varying degrees, by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication and repetitive behaviors. They include autistic disorder, Rett syndrome, childhood disintegrative disorder, pervasive developmental disorder-not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS) and Asperger syndrome. ASD can be associated with intellectual disability, difficulties in motor coordination and attention and physical health issues such as sleep and gastrointestinal disturbances. Some persons with ASD excel in visual skills, music, math and art. Autism appears to have its roots in very early brain development. However, the most obvious signs of autism and symptoms of autism tend to emerge between 2 and 3 years of age.