

SB 1582

Relating to administration of health insurance

The Oregon Health Authority created the Temporary Medical Insurance Program in order to provide an additional three months of insurance coverage for Oregonians that previously had insurance through Oregon's high risk pool, the Oregon Medical Insurance Pool (OMIP). OMIP ended December 31, 2013 and there was concern that some members would not get signed up timely through Cover Oregon.

SB 1582 authorizes the OMIP Board to pay for costs of the Temporary Medical Insurance Program, and indicates that the first funding source to be used is the ending balance remaining from the expired premium tax. The bill also allows flexibility to the Oregon reinsurance program for potential changes to the federal reinsurance program.

The agency expects the remaining ending balance of the expired premium tax to be adequate to cover costs.

The proposed amendment adds language to the bill that allows insurers to continue a transitional health benefit plan until December 31, 2015 or later, if the federal government issues guidance that allows an extended period for these renewals.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends SB 1582 be amended and reported out do pass, as amended.