

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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

Revenue:

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

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

Vote:

House

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc:

Senate

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc:

Prepared By: Linda Ames, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: March 3, 2014

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Oregon Health Insurance Exchange Corporation to request federal approval to take specified steps to protect Oregon residents and business from consequences of operational delays in Cover Oregon web site. Makes employees of Cover Oregon subject to state whistleblower protections. Expands the Governor's power to remove members of the board of directors for Cover Oregon until July 1, 2015.

Authorizes money from the Oregon Medical Insurance Board (OMIP) account to fund the Temporary Medical Insurance Pool (TMIP). Defines terms relating to Oregon Transitional Reinsurance Program (OTRP) to align the program with expected changes to the federal reinsurance program. Establishes various OTRP coinsurance rates based on varying circumstances such as the national coinsurance rate. Extends eligibility for OTRP payments to claims incurred by high-risk individuals who enroll by the end of the initial 2014 open enrollment. Authorizes the use of any remaining balance from premium assessments established under ORS 743.951 and 743.961 to fund the Temporary Medical Insurance Program (TMIP).

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- No fiscal impact with amendments

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Deletes provisions: authorizing money from the Oregon Medical Insurance Board (OMIP) account to fund the Temporary Medical Insurance Pool (TMIP); defining terms relating to Oregon Transitional Reinsurance Program (OTRP) to align the program with expected changes to the federal reinsurance program; establishing various OTRP coinsurance rates based on varying circumstances such as the national coinsurance rate; extending eligibility for OTRP payments to claims incurred by high-risk individuals who enroll by the end of the initial 2014 open enrollment; and authorizing the use of any remaining balance from premium assessments established under ORS 743.951 and 743.961 to fund the Temporary Medical Insurance Program (TMIP).

BACKGROUND: Cover Oregon is the health insurance exchange for Oregon. Health insurance exchanges were authorized as part of the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2010 which allowed states to establish their own health insurance exchanges, or they could let the federal government run one for the state. In 2011, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 99 creating Oregon's exchange.