

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
Vote:	10 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Gallegos, Gelsner, Gilliam, Gomberg, Keny-Guyer, Lininger, Olson, Whisnant, Whitsett, Tomei
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Cheyenne Ross, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/3, 2/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Renames Youth Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Coordinator (Coordinator) and specifies location within mental health and addictions arm of Oregon Health Authority (OHA). Refines and expands Coordinator duties. Requires Coordinator prepare annual report to OHA and legislature. Specifies content of report. Requires Coordinator update statewide strategic plan at least every five years. Specifies content of update. Requires first update to OHA and appropriate legislative committees before January 1, 2015. Defines “youth” and “youth suicide.” Effective August 1, 2014.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Suicide second-highest cause of death among Oregon youth, after car accidents
- Importance of strengthening intervention
- Mental health system designed to serve chronic adults, fails to serve youth in crisis adequately
- Substance abuse, not primary factor in youth suicide
- Self-harm reflects stress level, not necessarily predictor of suicide
- Lack of impact on Coordinated Care Organizations

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Modifies definitions of “youth” and “youth suicide” to raise upper age limit from 19 to 24. Replaces emergency clause with effective date of August 1, 2014.

BACKGROUND: Oregon has experienced a rise of 21 percent in suicide rates as a whole, since 2000; and as of 2010, the state’s suicide rate was 41 percent higher than the national average. Oregon’s Youth Suicide Prevention Plan has not been updated since 1997.

House Bill 4124A renames, focuses and expands the position of Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Coordinator within the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). The measure requires regular updating of Oregon’s statewide strategic plan and regular reporting to OHA and the legislature.