

**PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Senate Health Care

**REVENUE: No revenue impact****FISCAL: No fiscal impact****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Zena Rockowitz, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 3/11

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires registered medical marijuana facility and licensed marijuana retailer to post notice of harmful effects of marijuana on pregnant women, and potential of marijuana to cause birth defects in facility or on premises of retail location. Directs notice to be visible to any individual receiving marijuana or useable marijuana. Requires OHA to develop content of notice. Authorizes OHA to take action prior to operative date. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:****EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

**BACKGROUND:** In 1998, Oregon voters approved Ballot Measure 67 to allow medical use of marijuana within specified limits. The Oregon Medical Marijuana Program under the Oregon Health Authority administers registration of the program. “Marijuana” is defined under the controlled substances act (ORS Chapter 475) as all parts of the Cannabis family, whether growing or not; the resin extracted from any part of the plant, and every compound, manufacture, salt derivative, mixture or preparation of the plant and its resin. “Usable marijuana” is the dried leaves and flowers of the plant Cannabis family, and any mixture or preparation that is appropriate for medical use. The drug can be used for the following medical conditions: cancer, glaucoma, agitation due to Alzheimer’s disease, HIV/AIDs, and post-traumatic stress disorder. It can also be used to treat severe pain, nausea, seizure, epilepsy, muscle spasms, and cachexia (weight loss disease).

Research shows that marijuana use during pregnancy is associated with increased risk of neurological and behavioral problems to newborns, infants, and children. The National Institute of Health (NIH) reports that marijuana use by pregnant mothers may alter the developing endocannabinoid system in the brain of the fetus. This is associated with problems in areas of attention, memory, and problem solving. The NIH also reports a 2.3 times greater risk of stillbirth. Other studies by adolescent and child researchers have found adverse effects on birth weight, intellectual development, motor deficits, and psychiatric disorders.

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***This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.***