

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

Senate Committee on Senate Health Care

**REVENUE: No revenue impact****FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Zena Rockowitz, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 3/16

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Appropriates money to Oregon Health Authority, for biennium beginning July 1, 2015 out of general fund for extending dental pilot projects. Extends dental pilot projects until 2023. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

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

**BACKGROUND:** Oral health is vital for sustaining overall health, getting good nutrition and communicating with others. It is an indicator of overall health and a preventative measure. Oral disease often brings disabling pain which can worsen heart and respiratory conditions and auto-immune diseases. One study in Oregon found that dental pain is a more frequent cause of emergency room visits than headache, fever and asthma. Racial, economic and geographic factors influence access to timely prevention and treatment.

The OHA approves dental pilot projects that intend to innovate practices in oral health care delivery, particularly in areas of high disease rate and low access to dental care. The pilot projects operate for three to five years and evaluate factors such as quality of care and access. Projects should achieve teaching new skills to dental personnel, developing new categories of dental personnel and accelerating training of personnel. The programs end in 2018.