

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:** 4/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs Oregon Health Authority to operate 24-hour toll-free telephone hotline to obtain health care advice from registered nurse. Permits nurse to have support necessary to conduct telephone triage and provide follow up and assistance on referring caller for emergency care, making an appoint to see a safety net provider, advising caller on home care, and linking caller to social service agencies or emergency systems. Creates operative date of January 1, 2016. Appropriates funds to the Oregon Health Authority. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Fee-for-service recipients on the Oregon Health Plan (Oregon's Medicaid program) are offered a free, 24-hour, nurse advice hotline, administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS). Insurance carriers in Oregon are not required to provide nurse advice hotlines but some provide this service to enrollees. The nurse advice hotline offered under DHS allows enrollees to call nurse health coaches regarding treatment options, interpret doctor's recommendations, decide what type of care is appropriate, and getting information about services and programs.