

HB 2934 A: Convenes Stakeholders to Recommend Basic Health Program Design

HB 2934 A allows Oregon to take the next steps toward the goals of improving health care affordability and access. The bill would build consensus on the design of a Basic Health Program that would best further those goals.

The 2014 Legislative Assembly authorized an independent study to analyze the impacts and financing of a Basic Health Program in Oregon. The findings are summarized below.

A Basic Health Program would allow Oregon to:

- Improve health insurance affordability to those between 138 and 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
- Cover currently excluded populations, including legal permanent residents who are barred for five years from Medicaid, and the Compact of Free Association (COFA) population from the Marshall Islands, Micronesia and Palau who are permanently barred from Medicaid.
- Operate a Basic Health Program at little to no cost to the state. Federal funds would be available to operate the program. The federal government would redirect funds that subsidize marketplace health insurance for the population to the state to provide Basic Health coverage for the group.

What HB 2934 A accomplishes:

HB 2934 A directs the Oregon Health Authority to convene a stakeholder group to recommend operational and financing policies for a Basic Health Program. The stakeholder group would consider the findings of the 2014 Basic Health study and present its recommendations to the legislature by December 2015.

The bill does not direct the state to implement a Basic Health Program.

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