

Joint Committee On Health Insurance Transition

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued
Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/09/15
Action: Do Pass.
Meeting Dates: 02/09

House

Yeas: 5 - Davis, Greenlick, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer, Nathanson

Senate

Yeas: 3 - Steiner Hayward, Bates, Monnes Anderson
Nays: 2 - Boquist, Girod

Prepared By: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Abolishes Oregon Health Insurance Exchange Corporation and board of directors of corporation and transfers functions and duties to the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS). Establishes the Health Insurance Exchange Fund, and specifies that unexpended balances will be transferred from Cover Oregon to the new Health Insurance Exchange Fund; funds are available for expenditure by DCBS beginning July 1, 2015. Authorizes DCBS director, the Oregon Health Authority and Cover Oregon to take action before the June 30, 2015 operative date. Creates 15-member Health Insurance Exchange Advisory Committee and specifies duties. Defines Small Business Health Options Program and allocates \$1 million to DCBS to spend on information technology portal. Specifies legislative reporting requirements. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the amendment
- Explanation on effective date
- Fiscal categories
- Per member per month assessment fee
- Proposed amendments

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Cover Oregon is Oregon's health insurance exchange that was established as Oregon's implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Cover Oregon was established as a public corporation in 2011 to meet the federal requirement. After the initial planning and implementation, federal law requires that state exchanges are to be self-sustaining through assessment fees placed on the insurance carriers offering health benefit plans through the exchange. It was the intent of Cover Oregon to allow Oregonians and small businesses to purchase health insurance through the private market place.