

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee On Health Care

MEASURE: SB 445 A

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 03/11/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments. Refer To Implementing Measure 91 By Prior Reference (Printed A-Eng).

Meeting Dates: 03/11

Vote:

Yeas: 4 - Knopp, Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Shields

Exc: 1 - Steiner Hayward

Prepared By: Zena Rockowitz, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires registered medical marijuana facility and licensed marijuana retailer to post notice of potential harmful effects of marijuana on pregnant women, potential harmful effects of marijuana on breastfeeding infants, 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. Directs Oregon Health Authority to adopt by rule contents of notice for medical marijuana facilities. Directs Oregon Liquor Control Commission to adopt by rule contents of notice for marijuana retailers. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Health impact to mothers and infants
- Comparison to fetal alcohol syndrome
- Precautionary principle
- Family health information
- Addressing vulnerable populations

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Specifies “potential” harmful effects of marijuana on pregnant women. Requires post to include potential harmful effects for marijuana on breastfeeding infants. Specifies Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to adopt by rule contents for medical marijuana facilities. Adds that Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) adopt by rule contents of notice for marijuana retailers. Requires OHA consult with OLCC.

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 Institutes of Health (NIH) report 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.