

**FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION****Measure: SB 710**Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2015 Regular Session  
Legislative Fiscal Office***Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed  
Versions are Considered Official***

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**Measure Description:**

Requires state health plans, health insurers, health care providers or health care clearinghouses to provide, upon request, one copy of individually identifiable health information free of charge to individual, or to specified representative, when individual is requesting Social Security disability benefits or contesting denial of Social Security disability benefits.

**Government Unit(s) Affected:**

Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU), Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

**Local Government Mandate:**

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

**Analysis:**

Senate Bill 710 requires that when an individual is applying for Social Security disability benefits or appealing the denial of Social Security disability benefits, state health plans, health insurers, health care providers or health care clearing houses must provide one copy of individually identifiable health information free of charge. The bill contains an emergency clause, and is effective upon passage.

**Oregon Health Authority (OHA)**

Passage of this measure will have minimal impact on the Oregon Health Authority. OHA does not maintain health records that the Social Security Administration requires when applying for disability. The provider of care maintains the health records and OHA only maintains paid claims data.

**Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU)**

The Oregon Health Sciences University estimates the fiscal impact of this bill to range from \$100,000 to \$120,000 per biennium. The impact is entirely driven by the requirement that authorized representatives be provided a free copy of records. Currently, OHSU does not deny a patient or the patient's personal representative a request for information due to financial hardship. However, authorized representatives extend to patients' attorneys and disability organizations. These types of requests are handled by a vendor at no cost to OHSU because the vendor bills the requestor according to a rate schedule. It is assumed under this bill that OHSU would have to pay for these requests. The fiscal impact range is based on the number of requests received by the vendor and the current rate schedule.

Note that only part of OHSU agency's budget is subject to Executive Branch review, or approval or modification by the Legislative Assembly. State funding is provided to OHSU for specific functions such as medical and nursing schools, Office of Rural Health, and the Poison Control Center. It is anticipated that the costs relating to this bill would be to OHSU units not directly provided State funding.