

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Senate Committee On Health Care****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 04/06/15**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments. Refer To Ways And Means By Prior Reference
(Printed A-Eng).**Meeting Dates:** 03/16, 04/06**Vote:**

Yeas: 5 - Knopp, Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Shields, Steiner Hayward

Prepared By: Zena Rockowitz, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates funds to Oregon Health Authority, for biennium beginning July 1, 2015 out of General Fund, for extending dental pilot projects. Extends dental pilot projects until 2025. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Alignment with Strategic Plan for Oral Health in Oregon: 2014-2020
- Innovative workforce model
- Access to care for underserved and disadvantaged Oregonians
- Funding for specific person to provide management and oversight of projects
- No projects have been able to start yet

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Restores language to operate pilot projects for three to five years, permitting, rather than requiring, Oregon Health Authority to approve pilot projects with certain specifications. Extends sunset from 2023 to 2025.

BACKGROUND:

Oral health is vital for sustaining overall health, getting good nutrition and communicating with others. It is an indicator of overall health and a preventative measure. Oral disease often brings disabling pain, which can worsen heart and respiratory conditions, as well as auto-immune diseases. One study in Oregon found that dental pain is a more frequent cause of emergency room visits than headache, fever and asthma. Racial, economic and geographic factors influence access to timely prevention and treatment.

The Oregon Health Authority approves dental pilot projects that intend to create innovative practices in oral health care delivery, particularly in areas of high disease rates and low access to dental care. The pilot projects operate for three to five years and evaluate factors such as quality of care and access. Projects should achieve teaching new skills to dental personnel, developing new categories of dental personnel and accelerating training of personnel. The pilot projects end in 2018.