

House Committee On Health Care

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/13/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 03/20, 04/13

Vote:

Yeas: 8 - Buehler, Clem, Greenlick, Hayden, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer, Lively, Nosse

Exc: 1 - Weidner

Prepared By: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the State Board of Education, in consultation with the Oregon Health Authority and the Oregon Board of Dentistry, to adopt rules and guidelines for dental screenings. Requires public school students seven years of age or younger, who are beginning educational program, to have dental screening. Defines dental screening. Modifies exemptions to the screening requirement. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Oregon Smile Survey results
- Tooth decay major public health concern
- Integrating oral health with physical health screenings
- Objectives of screenings: normal versus abnormal oral conditions
- Impact of oral health on hospital emergency rooms

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Adds Oregon Board of Dentistry (Board) to adopt rules and guidelines for dental screenings. Modifies exemptions to the screening requirement.

BACKGROUND:

Dental disease is one of Oregon's most pressing public health problems. A recent study notes, "the majority of Oregonians — poor or rich, female or male, old or young, whatever their race or ethnicity — suffer from oral disease." The causes of this epidemic include inadequate education and prevention, lack of supplies and a shortage of providers serving low-income people. Left untreated, this preventable disease can be devastating to lifelong health, educational success, productivity and self-image. It's also been linked with serious illnesses like diabetes and heart disease.