

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/20/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments And Requesting Referral To Ways And Means.
(Printed A-Engrossed.)

Meeting Dates: 03/16, 04/15, 04/20

Vote:

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

Prepared By: Zena Rockowitz, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires provider of dental services in pilot project to be eligible for reimbursement if services are provided to recipient of medical assistance. Creates January 2, 2025 sunset. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- No pilots have been able to start
- Pilot projects ability to test new workforce models
- Extension versus repeal of sunset

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces original measure.

BACKGROUND:

Oral health is vital for sustaining overall health, getting good nutrition and communicating with others. 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. Some providers work under pilot projects that are not licensed in Oregon, but are licensed in other states (dental therapist or community dental health worker). These providers are not presently eligible for reimbursement under the Medicaid program. Senate Bill 692 A ensures their compensation.