

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 844 - A

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:

Creates the Task Force on Researching the Medical and Public Health Properties of Cannabis and prescribes the duties of the Task Force. Establishes expunction standards and limits relating to marijuana convictions. Addresses limitations for medical marijuana cardholders.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC), Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Legislative Assembly, Oregon State Police, Oregon Judicial Department, Public Defense Services Commission, District Attorney's and their Deputies, Department of Corrections

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

See Analysis below

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:

SB 844-A creates the 15-member Task Force on Researching the Medical and Public Health Properties of Cannabis. The measure also addresses when convictions for criminal offenses related to marijuana may be set aside and current limitations for medical marijuana cardholders who are in palliative or hospice care. In addition, transplant hospitals may not deny a transplant to someone on the basis that the person is a registry identification cardholder.

The task force is charged with studying and reporting on the development of a medical cannabis industry that provides patients with medical products meeting individual needs. The measure specifies information that must be contained in the report, and specifies that the task force is to report to the Legislative Assembly by December 15, 2015 on its progress, with a final report due by February 1, 2016.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is charged with providing staff support to the task force. OHA estimates costs of approximately \$125,000 to provide such support, which includes funds for hiring or contracting for staff support, research, attorney general legal services, and meeting expenses. Costs to agencies which are required under the measure to have a staff member serve on the task force are anticipated to be minimal. Two members of the task force will be legislative members who are entitled to per diem and travel reimbursement. The 2015-17 Legislative Branch budget contains funds for interim committee and task force work; however, if the work required by this task force or the cumulative enactment of other legislation with interim committees and task forces exceeds expenditure levels beyond those assumed in the 2015-17 budget, additional General Fund resources may be required.

The other provisions in the measure are anticipated to create minimal or no costs for agencies.