

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/04/16

Action: Do Pass With Amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Meeting Dates: 02/04

Vote:

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

Prepared By: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits drug outlet participating in Charitable Prescription Drug Program to repackage certain donated prescription drugs for distribution by other program participants. Clarifies that the program is for Oregon only. Limits donated drugs to be transferred only once. Directs the Board of Pharmacy to draft rules for the program. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Other states that have implemented Charitable Prescription Drug Programs
- Additional access for low-income individuals
- Proposed amendment

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Clarifies that the program is for Oregon only. Limits donated drugs to be transferred only once; deletes wholesaler language and directs the Board of Pharmacy to draft rules for the program.

BACKGROUND:

The Charitable Prescription Drug Program provides an opportunity for uninsured Oregonians to access life-saving prescription drugs. The program operates by accepting surplus drugs from primarily long-term care pharmacies and donating them to charitable pharmacies that serve vulnerable people. The surplus medication typically comes in the form of large blister cards which are then repackaged by the charitable pharmacy into regular patient vials before being dispensed.

Currently, most eligible charitable pharmacies that are able to participate in the program cannot because they do not have the space, staffing, or equipment necessary to store and repackage medication from the large blister cards. This hampers the impact of the program.

Senate Bill 1514-A allows the charitable pharmacies that do have the ability to repack medications from these blister cards to send them to the charitable pharmacies that cannot. These charitable pharmacies would then be able to dispense donated medication to their patients as well.