

HB 2754 -3, -4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 5/16, 5/25, 5/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires newborn child with hearing loss be referred to a health care provider to be tested for congenital cytomegalovirus. Requires the Oregon Health Authority to educate health care professionals and diagnostic testing facilities through print materials on congenital cytomegalovirus including sign, symptoms and treatment options.

FISCAL: *Minimal fiscal impact.*

REVENUE: *May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.*

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of early detection of hearing loss due to cytomegalovirus (CMV)
- Referring newborn children with hearing loss to diagnose whether child has congenital CMV
- Oregon Health Authority compiling and disseminating information on congenital CMV

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 Requires educational information relating to congenital CMV to be distributed each time a child fails a hearing test, whether at a hospital, birthing center or diagnostic facility, and whether following the first test required by law or the second test required by law. Requires OHA to disseminate informational information about CMV in addition to at the time of failing of hearing test. Requires OHA to develop a schedule, by rule or otherwise, under which hearing tests, referrals and CMV testing occur within 21 days. This schedule is to be distributed to hospitals, birthing centers and diagnostic facilities.

-4 Requires educational information relating to congenital CMV to be distributed each time a child fails a hearing test, whether at a hospital, birthing center or diagnostic facility, and whether following the first test required by law or the second test required by law. Requires OHA to disseminate informational information about CMV in addition to at the time of failing of hearing test. Requires OHA to develop a schedule, by rule or otherwise, under which hearing tests, referrals and CMV testing occur as soon as practicable after birth. This schedule is to be distributed to hospitals, birthing centers and diagnostic facilities.

BACKGROUND:

Cytomegalovirus (CMV) is a herpes virus that infects individuals. The virus can remain dormant in the body, but can cause complications during pregnancy and for individuals with a weakened immune system. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that over 50 % of adults in the United States are infected by the age of 40. It affects males and females equally, at any age, and regardless of ethnicity. CMV infection can pass from the mother to the fetus during pregnancy. The CDC estimates that 1 in 150 newborns are infected with CMV at birth and that most of these infants will have no signs or symptoms. However, about 20 percent of them will develop symptoms or long-term health complications, including learning disabilities. Severe symptoms include vision and hearing loss, small head size, weakness and difficulty using muscles, coordination issues and seizures.

House Bill 2754 seeks to improve education, awareness and screening of newborns in Oregon for a viral infection, congenital cytomegalovirus.