

HB 3276 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Prepared By: Linda Ames, Budget Analyst

Meeting Dates: 6/14, 6/27, 6/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires health benefit plan coverage of health services to reimburse the cost of necessary antitoxins, serums, vaccines, immunization agents, antibiotics, antidotes and other necessary items if the Public Health Director determines that there exists a disease outbreak, epidemic or other condition of public health importance in a geographic area of the state or statewide. Specifies that insurers cover the cost of necessary antitoxins, serums, vaccines, etc. Directs the Public Health Director to convene a task force to develop recommendations to improve student health insurance coverage. Specifies membership of the task force. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Fiscal impact

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Meningitis outbreaks have occurred recently in 2015, in Eugene at the University of Oregon (UO) and in 2017 in Corvallis at Oregon State University. Meningitis is a communicable disease; the UO outbreak resulted in hospitalizations and one death. In each case, the university has quickly responded by working with public health agencies to quickly vaccinate thousands of students. In some instances, insurers refused to reimburse the university for the cost of vaccinations. Some insurers require that vaccines be administered by a primary care or in-network physician, even if that provider is hundreds of miles away. Reimbursement was also denied due to the specific vaccine's status as a recently approved drug.