

HB 2754 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Barker

House Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 04/10/17

Action: Do Pass.

Vote: 8-0-1-0

Yeas: 8 - Alonso Leon, Buehler, Greenlick, Hack, Hayden, Keny-Guyer, Malstrom, Nosse

Exc: 1 - Kennemer

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, LPRO Analyst

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires newborn child with hearing loss be referred to a health care provider for the purpose of diagnosing whether the infant has congenital cytomegalovirus. Directs the Oregon Health Authority to compile and disseminate education information on congenital cytomegalovirus.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Intent of the measure
- Importance of early detection of hearing loss due to cytomegalovirus (CMV)
- Congenital CMV is largely undetected because newborns are asymptomatic at birth
- Six states (Utah, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Texas and Tennessee) have enacted the Cytomegalovirus Public Health Initiative
- Proposed amendment

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Cytomegalovirus (CMV) is a common herpes virus that can infect anyone. 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 percent 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. 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.