

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

79th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2017 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

Measure: SB 833

***Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official***

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Measure Description:

Requires hospital that discharges patient following attempted suicide to facilitate referral of patient to peer support program.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Oregon State Police (OSP), Cities, Counties

Analysis:

Senate Bill 833 requires law enforcement agencies to adopt policies for referral of individuals who attempts suicide or family members of a person who commits suicide to peer support programs. The bill requires hospitals that discharge patients following attempted suicide to encourage the patient to sign an authorization for the hospital to disclose patient information to a peer support program. If authorized, hospitals must make a referral to a peer support program to permit a peer support counselor to contact the patient. The bill takes effect on January 1, 2018.

Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Cities, Counties

The fiscal impact of this bill to OHA, cities, and counties is indeterminate, but anticipated to be substantial. Because in many counties and cities there are already a partnership between law enforcement and mental health providers, the impact of developing the specific policies outlined in the bill is anticipated to be minimal. In addition, OHA anticipates that the agency would be expected to maintain a reference list for law enforcement officers to contact. The agency will perform this work with existing resources. However, the fiscal impact of this bill comes from ensuring that county mental health programs have adequate peer support resources that meet an acceptable level of care set by the bill. Passage of this bill will likely increase the number of referrals to peer support programs. Although the bill does not explicitly require referrals to a peer support provider under contract with OHA, if passage of this bill results in an increase in referrals to peer support providers under contract with OHA, the agency could be obligated to fund these contracts in order to ensure adequate services. Extrapolating from hospitalizations during 2015, OHA calculates the cost of these contracts could reach \$18,645,099 General Fund for the 18 months of the 2017-19 biennium and \$24,860,131 General Fund for the 24 months of the 2019-21 biennium. It is also likely that the provision of peer support services would result in a savings associated with fewer emergency department admissions. This impact is also indeterminate.

Oregon State Police (OSP)

The fiscal impact of this bill to OSP is anticipated to be minimal. OSP anticipates compliance with the provisions of this bill to be a minor change to existing policies and procedures, and the agency will use existing resources to implement the requirements of the bill.