

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

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

Measure: HB 3276 - A

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

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Measure Description:

Requires health benefit plan coverage of health services necessary to combat disease outbreak or epidemic.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), counties

Analysis:

House Bill 3276 prohibits insurers from restricting coverage of health services necessary to combat disease outbreak or epidemic. In addition, the bill directs the Public Health Director to convene a task force to make recommendations for legislative changes to improve student health insurance coverage, as well as to prepare for future public health emergencies by recommending changes to public health policies relating to vaccinations. The Public Health Director must report the findings and recommendations of this task force to the Legislature by October 30, 2017. The task force sunsets on December 31, 2017. The bill take effect on passage.

Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

PEBB and OEGB health benefit plans currently cover health services, such as vaccines and antibiotics, necessary to combat disease outbreaks or epidemics.

The fiscal impact of this bill to OHA is indeterminate depending on the number of task force members and their geographic location, as well as the number of meetings and the scope of work undertaken by the task force. Although the bill specifies that representatives on the task force must include representatives from the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), insurers, coordinated care organizations, and local public health authorities, the bill is silent on the number of members. Because the bill does not specify that task force members serve as volunteers and are not entitled to compensation and reimbursement, ORS 292.495 allows for the compensation and reimbursement of expenses for non-elected state officials. OHA anticipates reprioritizing duties and responsibilities of existing staff to support the task force. It is assumed that OHA would be required to cover the expenses of the task force. These costs cannot be quantified until the task force is convened and the number of members and the scope of these activities is defined.

Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), local public health authorities

Passage of this bill is anticipated to have minimal impact on these entities. This fiscal assumes these entities will reprioritizing duties and responsibilities of existing staff to allow participation on the task force.