

HB 4133 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee in the Oregon Health Authority to conduct studies and reviews of incidence and severity of death during or caused by pregnancy. Specifies membership criteria and requires Governor to appoint members. Exempts Committee from public meeting laws; information created or maintained by Committee is confidential and exempt from public disclosure. Requires Committee to make recommendations to reduce incidence and severity of maternal morbidity, and to submit reports to interim committees related to health care no later than January 1, 2019 and January 1, 2022. Requires Committee to commence studies and reviews of incidence of severe maternal morbidity no later than July 1, 2021. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Adds emergency clause. Modifies membership. Modifies reporting period; specifies Committee is required to submit biennial reports to Legislative Assembly.

REVENUE: No revenue impact.

FISCAL: May has fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

BACKGROUND:

Deaths during or caused by pregnancy are a growing concern across the nation. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the maternal mortality rate in the U.S. has increased by over 140 percent since 1987. A 2015 study of maternal mortality in California found that 90 percent of the most common causes of pregnancy-related deaths could have been prevented. The same study found that the biggest factors contributing to maternal mortality are provider-related and patient-related.

In Oregon, over the past 10 years, the number of maternal deaths per year has ranged from four to 12. According to the Oregon Health Authority, however, the current method of case finding may undercount actual deaths by as much as one-third. Furthermore, for every maternal death, there are approximately 50 women who suffer maternal morbidity--very severe complications of pregnancy, labor, and delivery that bring them close to death.

House Bill 4133 establishes a Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee to conduct studies and reviews of incidence and severity of maternal mortality in Oregon.