

HB 4133 -4 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, 2/14

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:

- Maternal mortality and morbidity rates in rural communities and communities of color
- Likely factors that contribute to preventable maternal deaths that occur during and after pregnancy and delivery
- Racial, ethnic, and health disparities that contribute to adverse pregnancy-related complications
- Reducing maternal mortality through use of proposed committee and data (often referred to as a “near-miss”)
- Confidentiality of information to be reported to committee and patient safety
- Developing a statewide plan to prevent pregnancy-related complications by tracking, studying, and reviewing maternal and morbidity cases in Oregon

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-4 Replaces measure. 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 including geographic, ethnic and economic diversity; requires Governor to appoint members. Specifies criteria to be used by Committee in the examination of maternal mortality and morbidity. Grants OHA authority to request information from health care organizations, state and local governments, and medical examiners. Specifies the type of information to be made available to the Committee if requested. Exempts Committee from public meeting laws; information created or maintained by Committee is confidential and exempt from public disclosure. Exempts committee members from civil or criminal liabilities. Grants immunity to reporting entities and individuals. Requires Committee to submit progress report to Legislative Assembly no later than January 1, 2019. Requires Committee to submit first biennial report no later than July 1, 2021. Declares an emergency.

REVENUE: *No revenue impact.*

FISCAL: *Fiscal impact 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.

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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.