

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**Measure: SB 1547 - A9**79th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2018 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office***Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official***

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Measure Description:

Expands list of health care professionals who can provide medical release to youth athlete who is suspected of having concussion.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU), School Districts, Department of Education (ODE), Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Oregon Board of Chiropractic Examiners (OBCE), Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine (OBNM), Occupational Therapy Licensing Board (OTLB), Oregon Board of Psychology, Oregon Medical Board (OMB), Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN), Physical Therapist Licensing Board [semi-independent listed under ORS 182.454]

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

Costs related to the measure are indeterminate at this time - See explanatory analysis.

Analysis:

SB 1547 with the -A9 amendment expands, for the purpose of providing medical release to youth athletes suspected of having a concussion, the list of health care professionals to include chiropractic physicians, naturopathic physicians, psychologists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners licensed in Oregon. To be eligible to provide this medical release, these professionals must meet specified requirements, including completing an online certification program to be established by the Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU).

The full fiscal impact of this bill on school districts is indeterminate. Although the fiscal impact of implementing the provisions of this bill on OHSU, school districts, and the licensing boards regulating these health care professionals (listed above in the Government Units Affected section) is minimal, the School Boards are concerned of the potential liability facing its athletic programs with passage of this bill. However, the frequency and magnitude of this liability cannot be predicted or quantified, at this time.

Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU)

Operative July 1, 2020, the bill requires OHSU to establish and administer a program to certify health care professionals relating to the assessment, diagnosis, and management of sports-related concussions. The bill authorizes OHSU to establish fees to cover the cost of the certification program. The bill directs OHSU to submit to an interim committee of the legislature a report on the progress of establishing this online program, by October 1, 2018. OHSU must also submit a report providing the number of health care professionals who have successfully completed the online certification program, by December 1, 2021. OHSU anticipates using existing staff to comply with the provisions of this bill, and using program fees to offset operational costs. Such fees will be set via rule making and are yet to be determined.

Note that only part of OHSU agency's budget is subject to Executive Branch review, or approval or modification by the Legislative Assembly. State funding is provided to OHSU for specific functions such as medical and nursing schools, Office of Rural Health, and the Poison Control Center. It is anticipated that the costs relating to this measure would be to OHSU units not directly provided State funding.