

SB 1539 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 02/07/18

Action: Do pass and refer to Ways and Means by prior reference.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Beyer, DeBoer, Knopp, Monnes Anderson, Steiner Hayward

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Oregon Psychiatric Access Line (OPAL-A) in Oregon Health and Science University to provide psychiatric physician consultations to primary care providers caring for adults. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Program overview of the Oregon Psychiatric Access Line about Kids (OPAL-K)
- Telepsychiatry consultation process
- Limited access to behavioral health services for certain populations
- Value of psychiatric consultation

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

OPAL-K was established in 2013 with funding from the Oregon legislature. The OPAL-K program provides free, same-day child and adolescent psychiatric telephone consultations to primary care providers throughout the state. Over 1,500 consult calls have been made since 2014, with 555 consult calls occurring in 2017.

The measure establishes the Oregon Psychiatric Access Line (OPAL-A) to provide telephone or electronic psychiatric consultations to primary care providers caring for adult patients with mental health disorders.