

HB 2845 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines terms. Requires insurers and Medicaid to reimburse for postpartum care for women and children 60 days after delivery. Specifies professions and services that are reimbursable for pregnancy care. Establishes patient cost-sharing for pregnancy-related services for commercial insurers. Requires insurers to pay a fee to freestanding birthing centers and reimburse using a methodology to be developed by the Oregon Health Authority. Requires the Department of Consumer and Business Services to report to the Legislative Assembly on implementation.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Freestanding birthing centers are designed to support natural labor and delivery by trained midwives and staff, offer a “family-centered” experience, and provide care before, during, and after normal pregnancy, labor, and birth. Birthing centers use midwives as the primary care providers that work with physicians and hospitals to provide maternity care and are often licensed by states. The Commission for the Accreditation of Birth Centers is an independent authority that accredits birth centers in the U.S. As of January 2019, the Oregon Health Authority licensed 15 birthing centers, which are defined as non-hospital settings where childbirth is planned and occurs away from a private residence.

Oregon licenses three types of midwives: (1) licensed direct entry midwives (LDM) who supervise the labor of childbirth, advise the parent as to the progress of childbirth, and render prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum care, (2) certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) are advanced-practice nurses who also provide prenatal, birth, and postpartum care in hospitals and birthing centers, and (3) certified professional midwives (CPM) who also provide pregnancy-related services. The Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA) oversees the licensure to direct-entry midwifery (House Bill 2997, 2013).

House Bill 2845 seeks to improve access to midwifery care in Oregon.