

## SB 599 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Health Care

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**Meeting Dates:** 3/18

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Establishes the Medical Marijuana Patient Access Committee (Committee) in the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to study and recommend measures to reduce barriers to accessing medical marijuana and advise OHA on issues related to accessing medical marijuana. Requires OHA to issue permanent registry identification cards to specified individuals. Allows OHA to increase or waive the possession limits for marijuana plants and usable marijuana for individuals with debilitating medical conditions. Caps registry identification card application fee at \$60. Specifies timelines for approval or denial of certain registry identification card applications. Prohibits professional licensing board from denying or revoking an authorization to provide an occupational or professional service solely for the reason that the person who has applied for or holds the authorization is a registry identification cardholder. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

*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:**

The Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP) implements and administers provisions of the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act (OMMA) to ensure Oregonians suffering from debilitating medical conditions have safe and well-regulated access to medical marijuana as a therapeutic treatment for those conditions.

In November 2014, Oregon voters approved Ballot Measure measure 91, fully legalizing marijuana in Oregon. In 2017, the Legislative Assembly passed House 2198, creating the Oregon Cannabis Commission to provide advice to OHA on administration of OMMP and the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) on the administration of the non-medical marijuana program.

Senate Bill 599 establishes the Medical Marijuana Patient Access Committee in OHA to study and recommend measures to reduce barriers to accessing medical marijuana and advise OHA on issues related to accessing medical marijuana.