

HB 2638 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 1/24, 3/14, 3/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands and modifies membership of the Alcohol and Drug Commission (Commission). Specifies the Director of the Commission is to serve as a nonvoting chairperson.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Breadth and expertise of individuals that serve on the Commission
- Expanding representation on the Commission
- Addiction crisis; barriers to accessing treatment services for individuals

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 Removes reference to minimum number of members to be appointed by the Governor. Modifies composition of the Commission to include at least 75 percent of Governor appointed representatives must represent public health and health care stakeholders, 25 percent must represent public safety stakeholders, adds social service providers, and specifies providers of addiction prevention and recovery services are to serve as members. Restores circuit court judge as a nonvoting member appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Removes representation by a coordinated care organization as a nonvoting member. Allows the Director of the Commission to recommend a member be replaced if absent for more than two consecutive scheduled meetings. Expands the definition of alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment program in Oregon by adding "tribal."

REVENUE: Statement issued: no revenue impact.

FISCAL: Statement issued: minimal fiscal impact.

BACKGROUND:

The Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission (Commission) was created by the Legislative Assembly in 2009. It was charged with "producing a plan for the funding and effective delivery of alcohol and drug treatment and prevention services." Its member composition and specific duties are strictly dictated by statute, which ensures a certain cross-section of representation and may impair the flexibility the Commission needs to be effective. The Commission varies in size with 20 commissioners as of 2019. In 2015, Senate Bill 951 altered the Commission to simplify its objectives and resolve long-standing quorum issues to improve its effectiveness and ability to establish priorities and policies for prevention and treatment services for alcohol and drug abuse. In 2018, the Legislative Assembly passed HB 4137 requiring the Commission to develop preliminary recommendations for the scope and framework of the comprehensive addiction, prevention, treatment, and recovery plan to be completed by July 1, 2020. The measure specified that the Commission is to review and update the comprehensive plan every two years, directing the Governor to appoint a director of the Commission and established the functions and powers of the director.

House Bill 2638 changes the membership of the Alcohol and Drug Commission.