

SB 918 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 5/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires local mental health authority to notify local systems of suspected suicide of individuals age 24 or younger when individual had contact with local systems and notice of death was received from a third party. Includes principals or superintendents of public or private schools, county juvenile departments, community developmental disabilities programs, child welfare agencies, substance use disorder programs, and any other organization or person identified by local mental health authority as necessary to receive notice. Requires notice to include name, date of birth, and date of death of deceased individual, and other information not otherwise protected from public disclosure. Includes definition of "third-party notification" meaning from source other than a patient being treated in a program administered by local mental health authority.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Increase in youth suicide in Oregon
- Post-intervention services after a youth suicide
- Federal privacy laws (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)
- Right to privacy for a deceased individual, a student record, and notification or disclosure by a school to local agencies

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Expands list of entities local mental health authorities can notify to include any public university, or private post-secondary institution of education.

REVENUE: No revenue impact.

FISCAL: No expenditure impact.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), suicide was the second leading cause of death among 10 to 24 year olds in Oregon in 2016. There were 97 youth suicides in 2014. Senate Bill 561, passed in 2015, directed OHA to develop a plan for improved communication and data sharing about youth suicide and be a central resource for local mental health authorities. The resulting communication plan involves OHA providing technical assistance and resources to each local mental health authority in identifying local pathways and establish protocols for sharing information and responding to suspected youth suicides. The plan also requires local mental health authorities to inform OHA of supportive actions for individuals affected by suspected youth suicides within seven days of each death.

Senate Bill 918 expands on the information sharing about youth suicide by directing local mental health authorities to notify other local entities that have had contact with a person aged 24 or younger who is suspected to have committed suicide, if the local health authority was informed of the death by a third party. The measure includes principals or superintendents of public or private schools, county juvenile departments, community developmental disabilities programs, child welfare agencies, substance use disorder programs, and any other organization or person identified by the local mental health authority as being necessary to receive the

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notification. Finally, Senate Bill 918 requires notification to include the name, date of birth, and date of death of the deceased person, and other information not otherwise protected from public disclosure, and includes a definition of "third-party notification."

1st Chamber vote (Senate): Ayes, 30.