

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**Measure: SB 131**80th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2019 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office***Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official***Prepared by: Kim To
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Date: March 29, 2019**Measure Description:**

Requires Director of Oregon Health Authority to appoint Children’s Health Advocate to investigate complaints and take steps to ensure access to and reimbursement of timely health care for children placed by Department of Human Services in private child-caring agencies.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Department of Human Services (DHS)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure will require budgetary action - See analysis.

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

	2019-21 Biennium	2021-23 Biennium
General Fund		
Personal Services	148,551	198,067
Services and Supplies	35,236	39,470
Total Funds	\$183,787	\$237,537
Positions	1	1
FTE	0.75	1.00

Analysis:

SB 131 requires the Director of the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to appoint a Children’s Health Advocate to ensure that children placed by the Department of Human Services (DHS) in private child-caring agencies receive timely access to health services through the medical assistance program in the geographic area the child resides. The advocate is also charged with investigating and resolving complaints made by or on behalf of a child regarding access to medical, dental, and mental health care through the medical assistance program, including disputes regarding reimbursement of cost of the child’s care. The measure directs OHA, in collaboration with DHS, to inform child-caring agencies about services available from the Children’s Health Advocate.

Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

OHA estimates the fiscal impact of this measure to be \$183,787 General Fund and one position (0.75 FTE) for the 18 months of the 2019-21 biennium; and \$237,537 General Fund and one position (1.00 FTE) for the 1921-23 biennium. This amount reflects the personal services and related services and supplies for one Operations and Policy Analyst 3 position to serve as the Children’s Health Advocate. Although capacity numbers for programs vary significantly and are hard to predict, OHA reports that currently there are 15 Behavioral Rehabilitation Services child caring agencies serving about 130 individuals, six Psychiatric Residential programs with about 140 beds, and six Residential Substance Use Disorder programs that have the capacity to serve over 100 individuals. OHA projects that this position could potentially take on about 15-20 cases per week.

Department of Human Services (DHS)

This measure is anticipated have minimal impact on the Department of Human Services. DHS will use existing staff and resources to collaborate with OHA to inform private child-caring agencies about services available from the Children's Health Advocate.

This measure requires budgetary action for the allocation of General Fund resources and position establishment for the Oregon Health Authority.