

**SB 179 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Health Care**

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**Action Date:** 04/08/19

**Action:** Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

**Vote:** 5-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 5 - Beyer, Fagan, Knopp, Linthicum, Monnes Anderson

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Brian Nieuburt, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/27, 4/3, 4/8

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to establish and administer, through fee-for-service payment or through coordinated care organizations, a program to provide palliative care services and support the provision of home- and community-based end of life care. Requires OHA to establish, by rule, requirements and provider qualifications for program. Specifies patient qualification criteria and required palliative care services. Makes program contingent on approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Use of palliative care to help reduce emergency room visits and hospitalizations

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Replaces the measure.

**BACKGROUND:**

Palliative care means patient-centered and family-centered medical care that optimizes a patient's quality of life by anticipating, preventing, and treating the suffering caused by serious illness. The care involves addressing the patient's physical, social, and spiritual needs, as well as facilitating the patient's authority, access to information, and choice. Palliative care includes, but is not limited to:

- Discussing a patient's goals for treatment;
- Discussing the treatment options that are appropriate for the patient; and
- Comprehensive pain and symptom management.

Senate Bill 179-A requires the Oregon Health Authority to establish and administer a program to provide palliative care services and support the provision of home- and community-based end of life care.