

HB 4161 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines terms including Regional Health Equity Coalition (RHEC). Directs Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to provide grants to RHECs using specified model. Appropriates \$244,000 of General Fund to OHA for grants to two organizations seeking to become RHECs. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Removes and replaces references to "target communities" with "priority populations." Modifies definition of RHEC. Directs OHA to work with RHECs. Deletes General Fund appropriation for grant dollars to RHECs and technical assistant by OHA. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: Revenue impact statement issued: no impact.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) funds regional health equity coalitions (RHECs) that serve 11 counties and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. OHA reports that RHECs are regional, community-driven organizations that work to address local health disparities, which initially received funding in 2011. The coalitions work in their communities to address issues related to health care, education, housing, employment, and transportation, among others. Over time, the coalitions seek to increase community engagement, develop organizational capacity, and support policies that address health equity issues, both at the local and state level for vulnerable and marginalized populations.

House Bill 4161 directs the Oregon Health Authority to grant funds to two Regional Health Equity Coalitions in Oregon.