

SB 563 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

Prepared By: C. Ross, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 3/2, 3/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands applicability of provisions governing youth suicide intervention and prevention to include children 5 to 10 years of age. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Failure to capture information necessary for robust planning
- Inability to assess full scope of suicides; prepare teachers, counselors; and engage in appropriate prevention
- Importance of proactive, age-appropriate outreach; age-dependent advance planning
- Updating current Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Plan in advance of crisis
- Pros and cons of amendment to include children under age five; capacities of children under age five

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

[-1 amendment dated 02/12/21] Makes provisions governing youth suicide prevention and intervention applicable to youth ages 24 and younger.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon has a Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Coordinator, informed by a Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Advisory Committee, within the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). They develop and maintain strategies described in the Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Plan, to address youth access to mental health interventions, best practices for intervention, increasing outreach to at-risk youth, improving intervention opportunities via social media and the internet, and involving coordination and communications between educational institutions, local mental health authorities, and organizations that serve youth, among other local partners.

Provisions of Oregon law governing youth suicide prevention and interventions are currently applicable to youth age 10 to 24. Senate Bill 563 changes the age range to apply to youth starting at age 5 to 24.