

HB 3037 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

Prepared By: C. Ross, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 4/20, 4/27, 5/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires medical examiners and death investigators to notify local mental health authorities (LMHAs) of suicides involving individuals age 24 or younger. Specifies notice content and deadlines and allows educational institutions attended by the deceased to be identified. Clarifies that the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is responsible for developing statewide post-event intervention protocols. Requires LMHAs where a youth suicide occurred to notify LMHAs where the deceased resided, and permissively, where the deceased had significant contacts. Adds educational institutions attended by a deceased individual to the list of entities required to inform OHA within seven days after receiving notice of a youth suicide from LMHAs. Adds information to required content of notice. Effective 91st day after *sine die* adjournment.

House floor vote: unanimous

House committee vote: unanimous

-A2 amendment: no fiscal impact, no revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Expanding information sharing to include suspected suicides
- More efficient and timely activation of post-event response protocols
- Enhancing local information-sharing and regional coordination

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

[-A2 amendment dated 4/21/21] Replaces *confirmed* suicide with *suspected* suicide for purposes of notification requirements. Adds mental health authorities for federally recognized tribes located in Oregon to the list of entities that must be notified. Incorporates references to federally recognized tribes located within Oregon's borders and references to urban Indian health programs throughout as appropriate.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), suicide was the second leading cause of death among youth in Oregon age 10 to 24 in 2018. OHA is currently responsible for developing communications plans to improve information sharing and responses at the local level in the aftermath of a youth suicide. The Legislative Assembly enacted Senate Bill 561 in 2015 to require local mental health authorities (LMHAs) to engage in post-suicide interventions; specifically to work with community partners to develop plans for information-sharing and response, to prepare in ways that reduce the risk of additional suicide, and to report deaths to OHA within seven days.

House Bill 3037 A requires medical examiners and death investigators to notify LMHAs in cases of suicide involving individuals 24 years of age or younger and allows such notice to identify a decedent's educational institution or extracurricular activities if necessary to protect public health. The measure also clarifies that OHA is responsible for developing uniform, statewide response protocols to be implemented at the local level in the aftermath of a youth suicide. Finally, the measure provides for LMHAs where a deceased person resided, to be notified of the deceased's death by LMHAs where the youth suicide occurred, and includes educational

institutions among entities that must report specified information to OHA.

PRELIMINARY