FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2021 Regular Session Legislative Fiscal Office

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

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Measure Description:

Establishes statewide coordinated crisis services system including 9-8-8 suicide prevention and behavioral health crisis hotline.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Military Department (OMD), Oregon State Police (OSP), Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Department of Human Services (DHS), Counties, Cities

Analysis:

This fiscal impact statement is for the purpose of transmitting the measure from the House Committee on Revenue to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

This measure relates to a statewide coordinated crisis system, and is meant to remove barriers to accessing quality behavioral health crisis services; to improve equity in behavioral health treatment; to ensure that Oregon residents receive consistent and effective behavioral health crisis services statewide; and to provide increased access to quality community behavioral health services. This is to be accomplished by investing in new technology for a crisis call center system; mobile crisis intervention teams; and crisis stabilization services such as crisis stabilization centers, short-term respite services, peer respite services, behavioral health urgent care walk-in centers, and crisis hotline centers.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is to adopt requirements for crisis stabilization centers by rule. OHA is also directed to establish a crisis hotline center to receive calls, texts, and chats from the 9-8-8 suicide prevention and behavioral health crisis hotline, and to provide intervention services and crisis care coordination. Each local community mental health program or public health authority must provide community-based rapid crisis response services to individuals contacting the 9-8-8 line by expanding the use of mobile crisis intervention teams, to the extent that funding is available. Crisis stabilization services provided to individuals accessing the 9-8-8 line are to be reimbursed by OHA, coordinated care organizations, or commercial insurance. The crisis stabilization centers and 9-8-8 must be available 24 hours a day, year-round.

OHA is to report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to mental or behavioral health no later than January 1, 2022, with recommendations on policies, legislative changes, and funding to implement the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020 and establish a statewide coordinated crisis services system.

This measure establishes the 9-8-8 Fund, separate and distinct from the General Fund, with moneys continuously appropriated to OHA to carry out this measure. Moneys in the fund may not be used to supplant General Fund appropriations for behavioral health services or for services provided to individuals enrolled in the state medical assistance program. Moneys in the fund do not revert to the General Fund and are not subject to transfer to any other fund.

A more complete fiscal analysis on the measure will be prepared as the measure is considered in the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.