

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 700 - A

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 Oregon Brain Injury Trust Fund Board to administer programs paid for by Oregon Brain Injury Trust Fund to provide service coordination and skills training to individuals with brain injuries, provide educational information to increase awareness and understanding of issues and needs related to brain injuries and to provide grants to support research into treatment of brain injuries.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Department of Human Services (DHS)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure are indeterminate at this time - See explanatory analysis.

Analysis:

SB 700 - A establishes the Oregon Brain Injury Board in the Department of Human Services (DHS). The Board is to provide services to individuals with brain injuries, and to support research and education to increase awareness and understanding of issues and needs related to brain injuries. The Oregon Brain Injury Board may adopt rules, contract with third parties to provide services to individuals with brain injuries, and accept donations. DHS is to provide staff support for the Board.

This measure further creates the Oregon Brain Injury Fund, separate and distinct from the General Fund, which consists of gifts, grants, and donations from public and private sources; allocations from the Criminal Fine Account; and other moneys appropriated to the Board by the Legislative Assembly. Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Board to carry to out their duties and to reimburse DHS for providing staff and administrative support.

Each year, the Board is to establish the percentage of money in the fund to be expended on the following:

- Service coordination, skills training, and resource facilitation for individuals with brain injuries- at least 55 percent of moneys in the fund are to be expended for this purpose;
- Education related to increasing understanding of brain injuries; and
- Grants to support research related to the treatment and understanding of brain injuries, with a priority for research related to traumatic brain injuries.

The Board is to establish eligibility requirements and required documentation for services for persons with brain injuries, and for administration of grants. The Board is to report to the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means and the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health on their activities no later than September 1 of each year.

The fiscal impact of this measure for the DHS is indeterminate at this time. It is unknown how much money will be available to the Oregon Brain Injury Fund from various funding sources. The amount of funding available will determine what activities the Board is able to undertake, and will also determine the level of support DHS will need to provide for Board activities.

As a reference point, DHS estimates that administration of a “robust program that the bill envisions” could cost around \$1,596,670 total funds each biennium, related to hiring seven positions to provide support for the Board. These include:

- One Principal Executive Manager - D for program oversight and Board coordination;
- Two Operations and Policy Analyst 3s, to provide support for the Board’s research and education work, and to coordinate rules;
- One Operations and Policy Analyst 2, to work on legislative reporting requirements and contract administration;
- One Fiscal Analyst 2 to track Board expenditures and contracts;
- One Administrative Specialist 1 to support the Board; and,
- At least one Human Services Case Manager to work on the direct services aspects of Board operations, though additional case managers may be needed depending on the size of the program.

However, as stated before, the amount of staff and administrative support DHS will need to provide to the Board will be determined by how much funding is available to the Board from all funding sources.

Of note, any allocations from the Criminal Fine Account to the Oregon Brain Injury Fund could have an impact on available General Fund revenues, as all undistributed funds in the Criminal Fine Account are deposited in the General Fund.

This measure establishes a new continuously appropriated fund and impacts the Criminal Fine Account. For these reasons, the measure warrants a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for consideration.