

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

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

Measure: HB 2591 - A

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Allows mobile school-based health centers to qualify for safety net grants from Oregon Health Authority.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Cities, Department of Education (ODE), School Districts, Counties, Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Analysis:

HB 2591 - A directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to create three grant programs related to health care in schools. The measure includes a \$2,555,000 General Fund appropriation in 2021-23 for the agency to carry out this work and identifies specific amounts from the appropriation available to support each grant program and OHA's administrative costs.

OHA, in consultation with the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), is to select 10 school districts or education service districts to receive planning grants. Each district that receives a grant is directed to evaluate the need for school-based health services in their communities, and to develop a plan to address this need. OHA is directed to contract with a nonprofit organization to facilitate and oversee the planning process, and to provide technical assistance to grantees. After the two-year planning process, each grantee is to receive funding to operate a school-based health center or school nurse model in each school district or education service district. Of the total appropriation, the measure specifies that \$995,000 General Fund is for this grant program, which is repealed on January 2, 2028.

This measure also allows OHA to award up to three grants to school districts or education service districts to implement a mobile school-linked health center, defined as a mobile medical van where children can receive primary care services near school grounds, from licensed or certified health care providers. These clinics are not subject to the school-based certification requirements or funding formulas for school-based health centers under ORS 413.225. The measure specifies that \$285,000 General Fund is for this grant program, which is repealed on January 2, 2028.

Additionally, OHA is to award grants to three school-based health centers to operate pilot projects to expand student access to health care services through telehealth. Some funds are to be allocated to the school district to increase school nurse capacity and offset the costs of project participation. OHA is directed to assist participating entities to use funds efficiently, and to coordinate with a statewide nonprofit organization that has experience supporting school-based health centers and school nurses, in order to carry out this grant program. OHA is directed to submit a report to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to health care on the effectiveness of these pilot projects no later than December 31, 2025. The measure identifies \$975,000 from the General Fund appropriation available for this grant program, which is repealed on January 2, 2026.

This measure specifies that the remaining \$300,000 from the General Fund appropriation is for OHA's costs to implement these grant programs. OHA, however, anticipates that administrative costs will total \$563,934

General Fund each biennium, which surpasses the amount identified for these costs in the measure. The agency's anticipated costs include three new permanent positions (2.50 FTE) and position-related Services and Supplies:

- One full-time Program Analyst 3 position to develop grant criteria, collaborate with stakeholders, evaluate the pilot projects, and report to the Legislative Assembly;
- One full-time Fiscal Analyst 1 position for contract and grant funding support;
- One part-time Research Analyst 3 to assist with data collection, evaluation, and reporting requirements.

In 2023-25, OHA anticipates costs of \$1,763,934 General Fund. This includes continuation of the three positions listed above, as well as \$1.2 million General Fund for planning grant recipients to operate a school-based health center or school nurse model in each school district or education service district as directed by this measure.

This measure extends the sunset date for the related planning grants and technical assistance funding approved during the 2019 legislative session under Section 1, chapter 601, Oregon Laws 2019, from January 2, 2026 to January 2, 2028. This measure declares an emergency and takes effect on July 1, 2022; the grant programs are operative on October 1, 2021.

There is no fiscal impact for Cities, Counties, or ODE. There is also no fiscal impact for School Districts if General Fund is appropriated to cover the entire cost of these grant projects.