

HB 2333 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Anderson

Senate Committee On Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

Action Date: 05/18/21

Action: Do pass the A-Eng bill.

Vote: 4-0-1-0

Yeas: 4 - Anderson, Gelser, Lieber, Taylor

Exc: 1 - Robinson

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: C. Ross, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 5/6, 5/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to report quarterly to the Legislative Assembly as specified, regarding use of psychotropic medications for children in foster care starting April 1, 2022.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Concern about lack of information, inadequate tracking, and possibility of multiple prescriptions
- Higher rates of prescribed medications for youth in foster care than those who are not in foster care
- Maintaining transparency and deterring potential to overprescribe

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, reported in 2018 that up to 80 percent of children enter foster care with significant mental health needs. Psychotropic medications can be effective treating clinical psychiatric symptoms or mental disorders such as depression, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia. There were 23,331 children in foster care in Oregon in 2018, of which 4,468 (19 percent) were being treated with psychotropic medications.

Oregon's Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Coordinator within the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is responsible for periodically updating the Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Plan, and works on youth mental health and addiction issues. The Department of Human Services (DHS) maintains the Oregon Foster Children's Bill of Rights, which includes access to physical and mental health care, including services and treatments available without parental consent. With respect to the issuance of prescriptions for psychotropic medications to children in foster care: an assessment by a qualified mental health professional or licensed medical professional is required; annual review of prescriptions to children under a certain age are also required when medications exceed a specified number; and prescriptions are prohibited unless they are for a medically accepted indication that is age-appropriate.

House Bill 2333 A requires a report from DHS to the legislature on the first day of each quarter starting April 1, 2022, on the number of psychotropic prescriptions and prescribers for youth in its custody.