

SB 719 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 3/24, 3/31

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Provides that aggregate data derived from information obtained by the Oregon Health Authority or a local public health administrator in the course of an investigation of a reportable disease or disease outbreak are not confidential or exempt from disclosure under public records laws unless the data could reasonably lead to the identification of an individual.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

All Oregon physicians, other health care providers and laboratorians are required by law to report certain diseases and conditions to local health departments. Reporting enables appropriate public health follow-up for patients, helps identify outbreaks, and provides a better understanding of Oregon morbidity patterns. Oregon law allows limited release of information obtained during a reportable disease investigation to individuals who have been exposed or if release is necessary to avoid an immediate danger to an individual or the public. Reportable disease investigation information is otherwise exempt from public records disclosure.

Senate Bill 719 provides that aggregate data obtained in the course of reportable disease or disease outbreak investigation can be publicly reported if the release does not lead to the identification of an individual.