

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

SB 1554

Relating to public health preparedness

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Human Services Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Steiner Hayward

SB 1554 requires the Oregon Health Authority to contract with an independent third-party consultant to study the state's public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic in partnership with counties.

The consultant will analyze various elements of Oregon's response to the pandemic, including resource utilization across levels of government; the efficacy of public health mandates with respect to health systems data; the coordination of emergency management functions; public health workforce challenges; and epidemiological data and capacity issues, among others. The measure requires three sequential reports to evaluate the outcome of this work and make recommendations for improving Oregon's public health system. The final report and recommendations are due September 1, 2023. The measure includes a General Fund appropriation of \$899,573 to support the fiscal impact.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends SB 1554 be amended by the -1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.