

SB 1555 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 2/21, 2/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires health plans to reimburse the full cost to providers of home visiting services for newborns. Directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), in collaboration with the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), to adopt rules for coverage of services and reimbursement methodologies. Exempts the requirement that health plans cover newborn visits from automatic repeal.

REVENUE: No revenue impact.

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued.

Senate Vote: Ayes, 19; Nays, 4 (Findley, Girod, Knopp, Thomsen); Absent, 1 (Heard); Excused, 6 (Boquist, Kennemer, Lawrence Spence, Linthicum, Robinson, Thatcher)

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 526 (2019) established the Oregon Family Connects program, a nurse home visiting service available to newborns of all families residing in Oregon. Participation in the program is voluntary. One to three visits from a state-licensed registered nurse are available to families with newborns up to six months of age. Health plans are required to cover the cost of newborn home visits.

Senate Bill 1555 directs the Oregon Health Authority and Department of Consumer and Business Services to adopt rules related to coverage and payment methodologies for newborn home visits provided by the Oregon Family Connects program and exempts the program from automatic repeal.