

SB 1555 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Steiner Hayward

Senate Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 02/07/22

Action: Do pass and subsequent referral to Ways and Means be rescinded.

Vote: 3-1-1-0

Yeas: 3 - Beyer, Manning Jr, Patterson

Nays: 1 - Linthicum

Exc: 1 - Kennemer

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Daniel Dietz, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/2, 2/7

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.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Evidence of improved health outcomes for infants who receive home visits
- Status of Oregon's Family Connects program
- Reimbursement methodologies for newborn home visits
- Fiscal impact, if any, of requiring private insurers to cover visits

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.