

SB 514 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes an adult suicide prevention coordinator within the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). Establishes an adult suicide prevention advisory committee, with members to be appointed by the Director of OHA, to advise the authority on ways to prevent suicide. Requires the adult suicide prevention coordinator to work with the advisory committee to prepare an annual report with recommendations for administrative and legislative changes to address gaps in suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention. Requires the suicide prevention coordinator and the advisory committee to update the statewide strategic plan at a minimum of once every five years. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), suicide is one of the leading causes of premature death in Oregon ([link](#) to 2019 OHA overview). Citing data from the Centers for Disease Control, OHA found that suicide rates in Oregon have consistently been higher than the U.S. for the past 30 years. OHA reports that the number of deaths related to suicide in 2022 is similar to previous years ([link](#) to 2023 Suicide-related Public Health Surveillance Update).

In Oregon, programs related to adult suicide prevention include the 988 Suicide & Crisis Hotline, county crisis hotlines, and the Oregon Health Authority's Suicide Prevention Team. Youth suicide prevention programs include the Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Plan, a five-year plan supported by the University of Oregon's Suicide Prevention Lab, the Oregon Alliance to Prevent Suicide, and OHA's Suicide Prevention Team.

Senate Bill 514 establishes an adult suicide prevention coordinator and advisory committee within the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and directs them to develop a five-year plan and to advise OHA to prevent suicide among adults.