

SB 470 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 2/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

States that a person who is under 19 years of age may not be denied medical assistance on the basis they are being held in a juvenile detention facility pending adjudication, if they are otherwise eligible for the Cover all People program. Directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to request approval from the centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for federal participation in the costs of providing medical assistance to those individuals. Directs the OHA, in collaboration with every county juvenile department in the state, related agencies, and the Department of Human Services and the Oregon Youth Authority, to study the need to provide medical assistance to youth begin held in juvenile detention facilities prior to adjudication. Provides specifics on the content of the study. Requires OHA to submit a report to the Legislative Assembly related to the judiciary by September 15, 2025. Directs all agencies of government to cooperate with OHA in the conducting the study. Repeals study requirements on December 31, 2025.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Health Plan (OHP) provides health coverage to individuals and families through federal Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In 2009, the legislature passed House Bill 2116, establishing the Health Care for All Oregon Children (Healthy Kids) program that made coverage available to children and adolescents (0-18) whose family earns up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). According to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), in 2019, approximately 97 percent of children and teens (0-18) were enrolled in health coverage. Among the remaining uninsured, 61 percent were identified as eligible for Medicaid but not enrolled.

Passed in 2017, Senate Bill 558 (Cover All Kids) extended OHP to all children residing in Oregon, regardless of immigration status below 300 percent of the federal poverty level. The measure also allocated funding to provide targeted, community-based outreach to assist with implementation through OHA's Community Partner Outreach Program (CPOP). According to OHA, at the end of the 2017-2019 biennium, nearly 5,900 children had enrolled in OHP-Cover All Kids (2019).

House Bill 3352 (2021) expanded Medicaid to adult residents 19 years or older regardless of immigration status and other qualifying criteria and renamed "Health Care for Oregon Children" to "Cover All People."

Senate Bill 470 prohibits denial of medical assistance through Cover all People for a person who is younger than 19 and in a juvenile detention facility pre-adjudication; directs OHA to request a funding waiver from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; requires OHA to report to the Legislature on specific metrics by September 2025.