

SB 1044 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 3/20, 3/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Health Authority to study access to behavioral health treatment. Directs authority to submit findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to health not later than September 15, 2024. Sunsets January 2, 2025. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Replaces the measure. Appropriates a total of \$74,200,000 to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), out of the general fund, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, to provide for transition case management for individuals discharged from the Oregon State Hospital and at risk of homelessness (\$6,000,000); community mental health programs for individuals for whom civil commitment proceedings have been initiated (\$10,000,000); community mental health programs for jail diversion services (\$4,900,000); psychiatric residential treatment for children (\$2,300,000); behavioral rehabilitation for Medicaid members and service hubs for youth (\$8,300,000); child and adult suicide prevention (\$7,700,000); substance use disorder facilities and recovery centers (\$15,000,000); and incentives to recruit and retain diverse health care providers in underserved areas (\$20,000,000). Appropriates \$1,500,000 to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to distribute to the Oregon Health & Science University to coordinate the availability of behavioral health residential beds statewide. Appropriates \$4,000,000 to the Department of Human Services for long term behavioral health care. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Oregon has a higher prevalence of behavioral health problems than most other states, but less access to care ([link](#) to OHA's November 2022 Progress Report about Key Behavioral Health Investments (2021-2023)). OHA administers behavioral health programs including the Oregon State Hospital, the Behavioral Health Crisis System, Ballot Measure 110 implementation, Behavioral Health Housing/Social Determinants of Health, the Behavioral Health Workforce Initiative, and other investments/initiatives.

The Department of Human Services administers Medicaid funds for long term care in Oregon and regulates long term care providers, including those providing residential settings for people needing behavioral health care ([link](#) to DHS Long Term Care website).

Senate Bill 1044 appropriates a combined total of \$79,700,000 out of the general fund, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, to the Oregon Health Authority, the Department of Human Services, and the Oregon Health & Science University by way of the Higher Education Coordination Commission for programs, services, and facilities that provide behavioral health care.