

## HB 2397 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

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**Meeting Dates:** 3/22, 3/29

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to study opioid overdose prevention. Directs authority to submit findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to health care not later than September 15, 2024.

*FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.*

*REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.*

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

##### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 **Replaces the measure.** Establishes Harm Reduction Clearinghouse Project (Clearinghouse Project) in OHA to bulk purchase harm reduction supplies for use in the state by community organizations, first responders, and other entities that serve populations who are vulnerable to overdose, infections or injuries due to opioid use and use of other controlled substances. Specifies entities that may participate in Clearinghouse Project. Establishes Opioid Reversal Medical and Harm Reduction Clearinghouse Bulk Purchasing Fund to support bulk purchases by Clearinghouse Project. Removes prohibitions on specified drug paraphernalia and equipment. Provides immunity from civil liability to person delivering hypodermic syringes or needles, single-use drug test strips, drug testing tools, or any other item designed to prevent or reduce the potential harm associated with the use of opioids and other controlled substances.

*FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.*

*REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.*

##### BACKGROUND:

Opioids are a broad group of drugs that target the body's opioid receptors to provide relief from pain. Opioid drugs can be derived from the poppy plant (e.g., morphine) or synthesized in a laboratory (e.g., fentanyl). According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), since 1999 over 932,000 people have died from a drug overdose with over 75 percent of those deaths involving an opioid. This has resulted in a federal public health emergency declaration that has remained in place since October 2017. In Oregon, opioid overdose deaths have steadily increased in recent years, with 280 deaths in 2019, 472 deaths in 2020, and 745 deaths in 2021.

Opioid antagonist medications, such as naloxone, can reverse opioid overdoses. According to the CDC, only one naloxone prescription is dispensed for every 70 high-dose opioid prescriptions, with rural counties three times more likely to be ranked as low dispensing of naloxone as metropolitan areas.

House Bill 2397 would require the Oregon Health Authority to study opioid overdose prevention.