

SB 1061 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By: Patricia Pascone, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/22, 3/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Cannabis Commission (OCC), the Oregon Health Authority, the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission, and the Department of Revenue to work collaboratively on access, affordability, safety, funding, research, and public health and product education regarding cannabis and cannabinoid products in Oregon. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Inability to work directly with legislators since sunset on authority to request legislation
- Attempted to reestablish authority to work directly with legislature in 2020, but session was cut short
- Some but not all recommendations made to OHA and OLCC resulted in action
- Types of expertise represented in OCC membership

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Requires collaboration on the framework and administration of the medical marijuana program and steps needed to ensure research for public purposes. Permits OCC to collaborate and consult with chairpersons of the committees and interim committees on health care and judiciary. Requires OCC to report to the interim committees on health care and judiciary every two years beginning Sept. 15, 2024, regarding the progress made by OCC in carrying out its duties. Permits OCC to make recommendations for legislation.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Cannabis Commission (OCC) was established by House Bill 2198 (2017) and tasked with determining a possible framework for the future governance of the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program and determining steps the state must take to ensure research on cannabis and cannabis-derived products is being conducted for public purposes. It required OCC to report to the committees on health care and judiciary every two years, and permitted recommendations for legislation. It also provided authority for OCC to request an interim committee to direct Legislative Counsel to prepare legislative concepts.

Senate Bill 1544 (2018) extended each of these provisions until January 2, 2020. Senate Bill 1561 A (2020), Sec. 48, would have changed OCC's relationship with OHA and OLCC from one of providing advice to working collaboratively, would have required OCC to report to the legislature about long-term strategic plans to ensure cannabis would remain a therapeutic option for persons with debilitating medical conditions and ensure cannabis will remain affordable for such persons.

Senate Bill 1061 would require the Oregon Cannabis Commission, the Oregon Health Authority, the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission, and the Department of Revenue to work collaboratively regarding access and affordability of cannabis and cannabinoid products, among other subjects.