

HB 2397 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Action Date: 04/03/23

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 7-3-1-0

Yeas: 7 - Bowman, Conrad, Dexter, Javadi, Nelson, Nosse, Pham H

Nays: 3 - Diehl, Goodwin, Morgan

Exc: 1 - Tran

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/22, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Harm Reduction Clearinghouse Project (Clearinghouse Project) in Oregon Health Authority 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 Medication and Harm Reduction Clearinghouse Bulk Purchasing Fund to support bulk purchases by Clearinghouse Project. Permits transfer or donation of moneys from Prescription Drug Purchasing Fund. 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.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Relation to House Bill 2395 (2023)
- Anticipating funding of Clearinghouse Project

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

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 than metropolitan areas.

House Bill 2397 A creates the Harm Reduction Clearinghouse Project in the Oregon Health Authority to bulk purchase harm reduction supplies for populations vulnerable to overdose, infections, or injuries due to opioid use

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and use of other controlled substances.