A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to supports for youth with acute needs; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Human Services, in consultation with the Oregon Health Authority, the Oregon Youth Authority, the Department of Education, the System of Care Advisory Council and representatives from coordinated care organizations, shall, by rule, establish and administer a program to provide supports to youth with acute needs and the families of such youth, consistent with this section.

(2) The Department of Human Services shall identify the population of youth to be served by the program, which must include persons under 18 years of age who require, or are likely to require:

   (a) Psychiatric residential treatment services;
   
   (b) Subacute care; or
   
   (c) Treatment in a secure intensive community inpatient facility.

(3) The department shall enter into long-term contracts with child-caring agencies, as defined in ORS 418.205, to ensure multilevel, ongoing wraparound services to youth identified under subsection (2) of this section and the families of such youth, including residential, community and home-based services and school and educational assistance. The services and assistance must be provided in a trauma-informed manner, using best practices and national models. The contracts entered into under this subsection must utilize an alternative payment model, providing a guaranteed capacity payment to providers, and require providers to serve at least 20 percent more youth than the number of patient beds authorized under the contract.

(4) The department shall engage a statewide nonprofit entity with experience in child welfare programs, staff management and workforce initiatives. The nonprofit shall collect data and report such data to the department, make recommendations for building system capacity and the use of best practices, provide staff development and child safety trainings and coordinate between state and local agencies and community providers.

(5) No later than September 15 each year, the Department of Human Services shall submit to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to human services, in the
manner described in ORS 192.245, reports describing, at a minimum, data on program participant outcomes, changes in the use of residential programs and demonstrated cost savings to the state. The reports may include recommendations for expansion of the program to additional populations and proposed legislation to increase the efficacy of the programs. The department’s 2029 report must also include recommendations on whether to expand the program to other services, to continue the program in its current form or to allow the program to expire.

SECTION 2. (1) The Supports for Youth with Acute Needs Account is established in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Supports for Youth with Acute Needs Account shall be credited to the account.

(2) The Supports for Youth with Acute Needs Account shall consist of moneys received by the Department of Human Services, the Oregon Health Authority, the Oregon Youth Authority and the Department of Education for providing supports to youth with acute needs and the families of such youth. All moneys in the Supports for Youth with Acute Needs Account are continuously appropriated to the Department of Human Services and shall be used by the department for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of section 1 of this 2023 Act.

SECTION 3. (1) The Department of Human Services shall adopt rules and enter into contracts as provided in section 1 of this 2023 Act no later than six months following the effective date of this 2023 Act.

(2) The report described in section 1 (5) of this 2023 Act is first due September 15, 2024, and every September 15 thereafter.

SECTION 4. Sections 1 and 2 of this 2023 Act are repealed on January 2, 2031.

SECTION 5. This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect on its passage.