

HB 3126 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Emergency Behavioral Health Services for Children program in Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to promote the timely delivery of behavioral health services to children who present to hospital emergency departments in behavioral health crises. Requires OHA to establish by rule criteria for designating hospitals within a geographic region as Regional Child Psychiatric Center. Specifies services to be provided by Regional Child Psychiatric Center. Requires other hospitals within Regional Child Psychiatric Center region to have memorandum of understanding with Regional Child Psychiatric Center. Requires regional trauma area in Regional Child Psychiatric Center to coordinate with coordinated care organization (CCOs), local county behavioral health authorities, hospitals, and other community partners to conduct needs assessments and develop response plans. Directs OHA to implement Emergency Behavioral Health Services for Children program as pilot program for up to three Regional Child Psychiatric Centers in hospitals in three separate regional trauma areas. Requires OHA to provide funding for Child Psychiatric Emergency unit that Regional Child Psychiatric Center elects to operate. Requires OHA to report to Legislative Assembly on program by September 15, 2025. Updates membership of State Trauma Advisory Board and area trauma advisory boards to add representation from designated regions that participate in Emergency Behavioral Health Services for Children program. Prohibits insurance policies or certificates that reimburse costs of medical care from requiring prior authorization of treatment provided to individual presenting to Regional Child Psychiatric Center with behavioral health crisis or from denying coverage because health professional providing treatment is not credentialed with insurer offering policy or certificate.

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:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to Mental Health America, Oregon ranks last among states in youth mental health. This means that youth in Oregon have a higher prevalence of mental illness and lower rates of access to care.

House Bill 3126 would establish the Emergency Behavioral Health Services for Children program in the Oregon Health Authority to promote the timely delivery of behavioral health services to children who present to hospital emergency departments in behavioral health crises.