

Legislative Fiscal Office

Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, H-178
Salem, Oregon 97301
503-986-1828



Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Senate Co-Chair
Representative Tawna Sanchez, House Co-Chair

Senator Fred Girod, Senate Co-Vice Chair
Representative David Gomberg, House Co-Vice Chair
Representative Greg Smith, House Co-Vice Chair

Amanda Beitel, Legislative Fiscal Officer
Tom MacDonald, Deputy Legislative Fiscal Officer (Budget)
Paul Siebert, Deputy Legislative Fiscal Officer (Audit/IT)

To: Capital Construction Subcommittee

From: Matt Stayner, Legislative Fiscal Office

Date: March 1, 2024

Subject: SB 1578 – Relating to health care interpreters
Work Session Recommendations

The measure directs the Oregon Health Authority to establish and maintain a health care interpreter management system to allow online scheduling of health care interpreters for health care providers and coordinated care organizations and process billing and payments for services rendered.

OHA is also directed to contract with a nonprofit entity to develop and administer a health care interpreter recruitment and retention program.

The proposed -A4 amendments narrow the purpose of the interpreter management system to interpreter services for Oregon Health Plan members.

LFO recommends adoption of the -A4 amendment.

MOTION: I move adoption of the -A4 amendment to SB 1578. (VOTE)

The fiscal impact of the measure is indeterminate due to various factors related to developing and implementing the health care interpreter management system. The key concern is that the measure requires the processing of billing and payments through the system. This will require the integration with several existing information technology systems operated by the Oregon Health Authority.

The identifiable costs of the measure include the staffing and contracting costs for the third-party contract services for the development and administration of a health care interpreter recruitment and retention program.

For the development and implementation of the health care management system, the recommended fiscal amendments provide authority for the establishment of positions

within the Office of Information Services at OHA to review and resolve technical implementation problems and develop a recommended implementation plan with the understanding that the agency will return to the Legislature to request any additional resources required to implement the system.

LFO recommends adoption of the –A5 amendment.

MOTION: I move adoption of the –A5 amendment to SB 1578. (VOTE)

Final Subcommittee Action

LFO recommends that SB 1578, as amended by the –A4 and the -A5 amendments, be moved to the Ways and Means Full Committee.

MOTION: I move SB 1578, as amended, to the Full Committee with a do pass recommendation. (VOTE)

Carriers

Full Committee: _____

House Floor: _____

Senate Floor: _____