

SB 701 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Prepared By: Daniel Dietz, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to establish a telehealth pilot project in participating K-12 school districts in the 2025-2026 school year.

DETAILED SUMMARY:

- Directs ODE to contract with a provider for telehealth services, specifying requirements for experience and capacity.
- Allows school districts to apply to ODE to participate in the telehealth pilot.
- Directs ODE to report on the pilot project to the interim committees on education and health care by September 15, 2026.
- Appropriates \$2,000,000 from the general fund.
- Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

Fiscal impact: Not yet issued.

Revenue impact: Not yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Telehealth uses technology such as voice and video conferencing so that providers may deliver health care services to patients in different physical locations. In several states, telehealth services are offered through public schools ([link](#) to National Conference of State Legislatures). School-based telehealth services may reduce student absenteeism ([link](#) to *Education Finance and Policy*).

In Oregon, School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) provide comprehensive physical, mental, and preventative health services to students at school locations. In the 2022-23 service year, SBHCs provided 12,214 telehealth visits ([link](#) to 2024 SBHC report, page 5). This represents 8% of primary care visits and 12% of behavioral health visits (*id.* at page 6).

Analysis prepared by Aleya García Rivas, LPRO Graduate Intern.