

SB 844 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 3/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure changes the due date for the Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) overdose reporting, refines the definition of hemodialysis technician, makes complaint investigations about psilocybin services confidential, changes the definition and licensing of environmental health professionals, changes certification processes for clinical laboratories, expands school-based health center contracting, and directs OHA and the Department of Human Services (DHS) to enroll eligible people in pre-release medical assistance benefits.

Detailed Summary:

Overdose Reporting (Section 1-2)

Changes the date by which OHA must submit opioid overdose data to the legislature to January 15 of each year with data from the preceding year. Takes effect for the report due in 2027. Removes the requirement of reporting in 2026.

Hemodialysis Technicians (Section 3)

Defines hemodialysis technician as someone who provides hemodialysis services, excluding licensed health care providers who provide hemodialysis services under their scope of practice.

Psilocybin Services (Section 4-9)

Requires OHA to keep information obtained as part of an investigation of a psilocybin training program or other psilocybin program confidential in most circumstances. Restricts disclosure of complainants' identities. Permits OHA to share psilocybin-related information only with specific public entities. Applies to information obtained on or after the effective date of the measure.

Environmental Health Registration Board (Section 10-23)

Defines "environmental health." Replaces the term "environmental sanitation" with the term "environmental health." Revises licensing requirements for environmental health specialists and trainees and waste water specialists and trainees. Permits the Health Licensing Office (HLO) to require examinations for certain environmental health specialists and trainees. Modifies board membership for the Environmental Health Registration Board. Applies on or the effective date of the measure.

Clinical Laboratories (Section 24-39)

Repeals portions of statute related to clinical laboratories. Defines "certificate" as a certificate issued by OHA in accordance with the federal Clinical Standards Improvement Amendment (CLIA). Requires laboratories to receive a permit from OHA to perform health screen testing. Directs OHA to establish a permitting process and rules for health screen testing. Allows OHA to suspend, revoke, or deny a certificate or permit under specified circumstances.

School-Based Health Centers (Section 40-41)

Permits OHA to contract with entities to provide grant assistance to school-based health centers. Clarifies definition to include youth.

Medical Assistance (Section 42)

Directs OHA and DHS to enroll people who are eligible for pre-release medical assistance benefits in the correct benefit package. Permits a designee of a correctional facility to establish pre-release medical assistance benefits for a person in custody.

Fiscal impact: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

Revenue impact: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Clarifies data used in overdose reporting. Clarifies psilocybin discipline, investigation, training, and permitting processes. Updates definitions, terminology, and section numbers.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is responsible for many of the state’s major health systems including the Medicaid program known as the Oregon Health Plan, the Oregon State Hospital, public health, behavioral health, and the Public Employees' Benefit Board and Oregon Educators Benefit Board. Divisions of OHA include: Equity and Inclusion, External Relations, Fiscal and Operations, Health Policy and Analytics, Health Systems, Oregon State Hospital, and Public Health.

Senate Bill 844 makes several changes to statutes relating to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) by changing the due date for the OHA’s overdose reporting, refining the definition of hemodialysis technician, making complaint investigations about psilocybin services confidential, changing the definition and licensing of environmental health professionals, changing certification processes for clinical laboratories, expanding school-based health center contracting, and directing OHA and the Department of Human Services (DHS) to enroll eligible people in pre-release medical assistance benefits.