

Senate Bill 1197

Sponsored by Senator REYNOLDS (at the request of System of Care Advisory Council)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act tells OHA to create a respite care program for unpaid caregivers of children and youth with complex mental health needs. (Flesch Readability Score: 61.4).

Requires respite care services to be provided through the state medical assistance program to provide relief to unpaid caregivers of individuals under the age of 26 who have complex mental health or substance use-related needs.

Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to respite care; and prescribing an effective date.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:**

5 (a) **“Coordinated care organization” has the meaning given that term in ORS 414.025.**

6 (b) **“Respite care” means planned or emergency short-term care for a child or youth with**
7 **behavioral health needs to provide short-term relief to the parent or guardian of the child**
8 **or youth.**

9 (2) **Respite care services shall be provided through the state medical assistance program**
10 **to provide relief to unpaid caregivers of individuals under the age of 26 who have complex**
11 **mental health or substance use-related needs.**

12 (3) **The Oregon Health Authority shall support the development and maintenance of re-**
13 **spite care services by coordinated care organizations using any available funding mechanisms**
14 **and other resources.**

15 (4) **The authority shall ensure that sufficient agency staff resources are allocated to:**

16 (a) **Develop an application for a waiver or a demonstration project or to seek other fed-**
17 **eral approval that is necessary to secure federal funding to implement subsection (2) of this**
18 **section; and**

19 (b) **Provide adequate access to respite care services throughout this state in coordination**
20 **with community partners.**

21 **SECTION 2. (1) No later than January 1, 2026, the Oregon Health Authority shall seek**
22 **any waiver or other necessary authority from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Ser-**
23 **vices to secure federal financial participation in the costs of carrying out section 1 of this**
24 **2025 Act.**

25 (2) **The authority shall notify the Legislative Counsel immediately upon receipt of the**
26 **approval or denial of the request under subsection (1) of this section.**

27 **SECTION 3. (1) Section 1 of this 2025 Act becomes operative on the date on which the**
28 **Legislative Counsel receives notice of the federal approval as provided under section 2 of this**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **2025 Act.**

2 **(2) The Oregon Health Authority may take any action before the operative date specified**
3 **in subsection (1) of this section that is necessary for the authority to exercise, on and after**
4 **the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section, all of the powers, duties and**
5 **functions conferred on the authority by section 1 of this 2025 Act.**

6 **SECTION 4. This 2025 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2025**
7 **regular session of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.**

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