

# Senate Bill 701

Sponsored by Senator REYNOLDS, Representative NERON (Presession filed.)

## 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 ODE to set up a pilot project to provide telehealth services to students. (Flesch Readability Score: 68.9).

Directs the Department of Education to establish a pilot project to provide telehealth services in K-12 schools in the 2025-2026 school year. Directs the department to submit a report with recommendations regarding whether to continue or expand the pilot project to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to education and health not later than September 15, 2026. Appropriates moneys for purposes of the pilot project.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to telehealth services for K-12 students; and declaring an emergency.

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

**SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Education shall establish a pilot project to determine whether the availability of telehealth services in K-12 schools increases student access to health care services. The department shall contract with a provider described in subsection (2) of this section to provide, for the 2025-2026 school year, telehealth services to students in participating school districts.**

**(2) The provider selected by the department must:**

**(a) Have experience in providing telehealth services in educational settings, and at the time of the contract, be providing access to telehealth services to at least 50,000 students;**

**(b) Have experience in providing culturally competent pediatric care;**

**(c) Demonstrate the ability to provide high-quality physical and behavioral health services and care coordination through telehealth;**

**(d) Demonstrate the ability to establish an adequate network of licensed telehealth providers in this state to provide services under the pilot project;**

**(e) Have a technology platform for the provision and coordination of telehealth services that will be made available to participating school districts;**

**(f) Have the ability to bill health carriers and government health care programs, including but not limited to medical assistance and the Oregon Health Plan;**

**(g) Agree to provide telehealth services free of charge to students who are uninsured, and to waive or reimburse students for cost-sharing incurred for telehealth services received through the pilot project; and**

**(h) Agree to cooperate with the department and school districts in evaluating the pilot project and to share information necessary for the evaluation.**

**(3) To participate in the pilot project, a school district must apply, agree to make telehealth services available through the pilot project to all students within the school district**

**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 and agree to cooperate with the department and the provider in evaluating the pilot project.

2 (4) The department, in cooperation with participating school districts, shall evaluate the  
3 extent to which the pilot project increased student access to health care services and make  
4 recommendations on whether the pilot project should be continued or expanded to other  
5 school districts in this state. The department shall submit a report in the manner provided  
6 by ORS 192.245, and may include recommendations for legislation, to the interim committees  
7 of the Legislative Assembly related to education and health care no later than September 15,  
8 2026.

9 SECTION 2. There is appropriated to the Department of Education, for the biennium  
10 beginning July 1, 2025, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$2,000,000 for the purpose of  
11 carrying out the provisions of section 1 of this 2025 Act.

12 SECTION 3. Section 1 of this 2025 Act is repealed on January 2, 2028.

13 SECTION 4. This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
14 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect  
15 on its passage.  
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