

SB 1598 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 2/24, 2/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires state-regulated health plans to cover specified preventive health services, including immunizations, and authorizes the state Public Health Officer to make recommendations for services to be covered and issue standing orders for providers to dispense drugs and devices. The measure declares an emergency and is effective on passage.

Detailed Summary:

- Requires health plans to cover:
 - Preventive health services prescribed under federal public health authority as of July 30, 2025
 - Preventive services recommended by the state Public Health Officer, including immunizations.
 - Requires health plans to begin covering recommended immunizations within 15 days after the recommendations are published to the OHA website.
- Permits the state public health officer to:
 - Issue recommendations for preventive services, including immunizations. Specifies what the Public Health Officer should consider when issuing recommendations and directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to publish recommendations to the OHA website, including what information must be published.
 - Issue and withdraw a standing order to prescribe a drug or device to prevent, mitigate, or treat any significant public health concern. Stipulates that the Public Health Officer may appoint a licensed physician employed by OHA to issue a standing order. Specifies what should be considered in developing a standing order and criteria that a standing order must meet. Specifies that a standing order may not require a person to receive, use, administer, or withhold a drug or device.
 - Solicit input from local health officers for the geographic area to which the standing order will apply unless a delay is likely to endanger public health.
- Exempts the public health officer and any practitioner who prescribes or administers drugs in good faith from civil liability.

SENATE VOTE: Ayes, 17; Nays, 11

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions and implementation of the measure
- Insurance coverage of preventive services, immunizations, and other drugs and devices
- Purpose of a standing order as a statewide or geographic prescription
- Evidence required to inform development of a standing order and preventive service recommendations
- Appointment of the state Public Health Officer
- Other states with similar authority
- Patient provider relationship

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Specifies that a standing order **shall** not require a person to receive, use or administer a drug or device or withhold a drug or device from a person.

BACKGROUND:

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Beginning in 2010, the federal Affordable Care Act required health plans to cover specified preventive services without cost-sharing. Covered services include those recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, and the Health Resources and Services Administration. Since June 2025, some preventive services have been removed from [universal recommendation schedules](#), though they may still be covered by insurance.

In Oregon, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) director appoints a public health officer responsible for the medical aspects of OHA programs ([ORS 431.045](#)). The OHA director also appoints a public health director to exercise authority over public health emergency matters ([ORS 431.035](#)). The OHA director may appoint one person to serve as both the public health director and the public health officer (ORS 431.035).