

SB 1598 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Diehl

House Committee On Health Care**Minority Report****Action Date:** 02/26/26**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.) Minority**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Report Signers:** Rep. Diehl, Rep. Harbick**Prepared By:** Alexandra Kihn-Stang, LPRO Analyst**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’s 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, effective on its passage.

Detailed Summary:

Requires health plans to cover the following:

- Preventive health services prescribed under the federal public health authority as of July 30, 2025
- Preventive services recommended by the state’s public health officer, including immunizations
- Any future additional recommended immunizations within 15 days after the recommendations are published to the Oregon Health Authority (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. Directs OHA to publish the recommendations on its website.

Permits the state public health officer to 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 the criteria that a standing order must meet. Specifies that a standing order *shall not* require a person to receive, use, administer, or withhold a drug or device.

Permits the state public health officer to solicit input from local health officers in 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.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions and implementation of the measure
- Insurance coverage of preventive services, immunizations, and other drugs and devices
- A standing order’s purpose as a statewide or geographic prescription
- Evidence required to inform the development of a standing order and preventive service recommendations
- Appointment of the public health officer
- Other states with similar authority
- Patient-provider relationships
- Lay versus legal understanding of “shall not” and “may not”

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EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

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