

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carriers – House: Rep. Thompson
Rep. Greenlick
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Bates

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and as Printed A-Engrossed

Vote: 21 – 3 – 1

House

Yeas: Beyer, Buckley, Cowan, Garrard, Komp, McLane, Nathanson, Nolan, Read, Richardson, G. Smith, Whisnant

Nays: Freeman, Thatcher

Exc:

Senate

Yeas: Devlin, Edwards, Johnson, Monroe, Nelson, Thomsen, Verger, Whitsett, Winters

Nays: Girod

Exc: Bates

Prepared By: Linda Ames, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: March 2, 2012

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Oregon Health Insurance Exchange Corporation (ORHIX) to establish and deposit moneys into accounts in federally insured depositories. Removes requirement but still permits excess moneys collected by corporation from insurers and state programs to be held and invested to offset future net losses. Prescribes investments to be made with excess charges that are held and invested. Authorizes corporation to borrow money and give guarantees under specified conditions. Specifies applicable provisions of public contracting code. Authorizes board of directors or executive director of corporation to contract with carriers to develop innovative health benefit plans for employees of corporation if plans are approved by Director of Department of Consumer and Business Services. Exempts such plans from Insurance Code requirements for small employer health benefit plans. Provides legislative approval of corporation business plan for health insurance exchange by repealing provisions of law enacted to require legislative approval. Makes technical corrections. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Effects of amendment
- Community colleges included within the definition of school districts

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Permits school districts and eligible employees of school districts to participate in health benefit plans offered through the Health Insurance Exchange beginning October 1, 2015. Directs ORHIX to consult with education stakeholder regarding the plans that may be offered, as well as to apply for any necessary federal waivers to allow districts and eligible employees of districts to obtain health benefit plans through the Exchange.

BACKGROUND: In 2011, the Oregon Legislature enacted Senate Bill 99, which established the public corporation to administer the Oregon Health Insurance Exchange (ORHIX). Senate Bill 99 requires the corporation to submit a formal business plan to the Legislature for approval. The business plan was presented to the House Interim Health Care Committee during the January Legislative Days.

HB 4164 acknowledges approval of the ORHIX business plan, and includes technical and conforming changes to provide the corporation with the financial infrastructure to operate as an independent entity.