

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Senate Health Care

REVENUE: No revenue impact (introduced)**FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Zena Rockowitz, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 2/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to adopt, by rule, a schedule which may impose different dates by which children of different ages, or children attending different types of schools must submit a signed document that a parent is declining one or more immunization on behalf of a child if the child enters kindergarten or transferred to the school before March 1, 2014. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: -3 Amendment: Declares findings of the Oregon Legislative Assembly including that children who are not immunized are in danger of contracting diseases and exemptions for non-medical reasons increase individual and community risk. Eliminates non-medical exemptions and educational training requirement that parents submit on behalf of children. Requires minimum documentation for children attending school before and after 2015-2016. Directors Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to adopt rules for schedule and submission dates.

BACKGROUND: As a condition of attending any school in Oregon, every child through grade 12 is required to provide one of the following: certification of immunizations received, statement that a child should be exempted due to medical diagnosis, or statement to decline one or more immunizations for non-medical purposes.

The document to decline immunizations for non-medical purposes may include reasons for declining the immunization (e.g., religious or philosophical belief) and must include either a signature from a health care practitioner verifying that they reviewed information with the parent about the risks and benefits, and the contents of a vaccine educational module, or a certificate verifying the parent has completed the vaccine educational module. This educational component has been required for non-medical exemptions in Oregon since 2013.

According to the Oregon Health Authority, Oregon has one of the highest non-medical exemption rates in the country, and this continues to rise. In 2001-2002, the kindergarten and first grade non-medical exemption was roughly two percent and by 2013-2014 it was seven percent for kindergarteners. In 2013-2014, roughly five percent of seventh graders had a non-medical exemption.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) sets the advised U.S. childhood immunization schedule based on recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (a group of medical and public health experts). The CDC determines the scheduled based on severity of disease, safety and efficacy of vaccines, how well vaccines work at various ages, and how many children would get a disease without the vaccine.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.