

SB 5526

Oregon Health Authority

SB 5526 is the budget bill for the Oregon Health Authority. The agency's mission is to help people and communities achieve optimum physical, mental and social well-being through partnerships, prevention, and access to quality, affordable health care.

Programs provide medical coverage to low-income individuals and families, and to public employees; offer treatment services to persons with mental illness, alcohol or drug addictions; and regulate the state's public health system.

The Human Services Subcommittee approved a total budget of \$19.5 billion, including \$2.1 billion General Fund, \$11.3 million Lottery Funds, \$5.8 billion Other Funds, \$11.5 billion Federal Funds and 4,377 positions. The total funds budget is 9.9% higher than the 2013-15 budget, primarily the result of the expansion of health coverage under Medicaid, effective January 2014. The General Fund budget increases 9.2% over 2013-15.

Health care costs in the Oregon Health Plan continue to be capped at an increase of 3.4% per person per year. Those increases are fully funded in this budget. The continuation of the hospital assessment generates over \$3 billion in additional resources to help pay for the Oregon Health Plan, after accounting for federal matching revenues. This budget also includes \$122 million of Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement revenues, to fund the Oregon Health Plan, community mental health services, and tobacco prevention and cessation programs. Additional funding for the Oregon Health Plan will partially restore dental benefits that were reduced in past years.

The Other Funds budgets for both the Public Employees' Benefit Board and the Oregon Educators Benefit Board cap total program expenditure growth at 3.4% per year, consistent with the Oregon Health Plan.

After funding the continuation of all on-going program investments made in community mental health in 2013-15, the budget makes additional investments in both community mental health and addictions. An additional \$22.2 million of state resources is invested in crisis services, jail diversion, supported housing and peer-delivered services. An additional \$6 million is included for addictions treatment and recovery support. The budget funds the opening of four of the six wards in Junction City, which is expected to reduce the wait list for civilly committed patients.

The budget report for this bill includes several budget notes, including reporting requirements around the new investments in addictions and mental health, as well as a report on the issue of "boarding" of patients with mental illness in hospital emergency departments.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends SB 5526 be amended by the -1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.