

HB 2692 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 2/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (Committee) to publish recommendations on drugs no later than seven days after the committee makes a recommendation regarding the Practitioner-managed Prescription Drug Plan. Requires the Director of the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to approve, disapprove, or modify the Committee's recommendation, and then publicly post the decision on the Committee's website within seven days. Allow parties to request the OHA Director reconsider the approval; specifies timeline. Authorizes the Director to delay or implement a recommendation. Declares emergency; effective on passage.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2001, the Legislative Assembly enacted Senate Bill 819 creating the Practitioner-Managed Prescription Drug Plan (PMPDP). The PMPDP requires the state's Medicaid plan, the Oregon Health Plan (OHP), to maintain a list of the most cost-effective drugs to prescribe for fee-for-service enrollees (i.e., those not enrolled in managed care). This list is called the Preferred Drug List (PDL). New prescriptions for non-preferred physical health drugs (not listed on the PDL) require prior authorization, which refers to when a health care provider needs advance approval from a health plan to deliver medication. Health plans may require prior authorization before a drug that is not on the list can be dispensed, which means the prescriber must receive approval from the source paying for the drugs before the prescription can be filled.

The Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (committee) is an 11-member advisory committee of physicians, pharmacists, and consumer representatives. The committee is responsible for performing drug use review and making drug policy recommendations for OHP. According to the committee, their mission is to encourage safe, effective, and innovative drug policies that promote high-value medications for patients served by OHP and other health care programs under the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). This is achieved by evidence-based committee review of drug use research, clinical guidance and education, making recommendations to OHA, and maintaining the state's PDL. In its works, the Committee considers in order of priority: the safety and efficacy of the drugs being considered, the ability of Oregonians to access effective prescription drugs that are appropriate for their clinical conditions, and substantial differences in costs of drugs within the same therapeutic class.

House Bill 2692 modifies the amount of time the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee and the Oregon Health Authority have to approve and publish drug policy recommendations.