

SB 526 A -A2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Prepared By: Tom MacDonald, Budget Analyst

Meeting Dates: 6/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to design, implement, and maintain a voluntary statewide program to provide universal newborn nurse home visiting services to all families with newborns residing in this state. Requires OHA to consult, coordinate, and collaborate with health benefit plan insurers, hospitals, local public health authorities, the Early Learning Division, existing early childhood home visiting programs, community-based organizations, and social service providers in designing program. Establishes standards for nurse home visiting services. Requires OHA to collect and analyze data to assess the effectiveness of the program. Requires health benefit plans to reimburse for the cost of universal newborn nurse home visiting services. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A2 Eliminates appropriation language

BACKGROUND:

Duke University's Family Connects program provides between one and three nurse home visits to every family with a newborn beginning at about three weeks of age, regardless of income or demographic risk. Using a tested screening tool, a nurse measures newborn and maternal health and assesses strengths and needs to link the family to community resources.

Lincoln County Public Health currently runs a pilot program based on Family Connects, called Babies First Home Visits (Babies First), that helps families learn to care for newborns and children up to three years of age. Babies First operates as a developmental screening program for children at risk of developmental delay due to a variety of risk factors, including: premature birth, drug exposed infant during pregnancy, low birth weight, age of the parent/caregiver, income, and other factors. Services offered by Babies First include:

- Home visits to new families and children with special health needs
- Intensive home visits with assessments of learning opportunities and safety in the home
- Education and information on child development, including monitoring child growth
- Developmental testing
- Hearing, vision, and dental screenings
- Support to families and education on health topics
- Immunizations
- Assistance with the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- Support for smoking cessation
- Referrals for medical care and social services as needed
- Case management
- Consultation to other service providers, such as Healthy Start Family Support workers
- Support services for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)

Senate Bill 526 directs the Oregon Health Authority to design, implement, and maintain a voluntary statewide program to provide universal newborn nurse home visiting services to all families with newborns residing in Oregon.