



July 2013

Policy

## 2013 Oregon State Legislative Summary

The 2013 Regular Session of the Oregon State Legislature adjourned on July 8. OCCYSHN tracked and analyzed bills with the potential to impact children and youth with special health needs and their families. The bills are summarized here.

### **Bills that passed:**

[Senate Bill \(SB\) 365](#) establishes the requirements for the coverage of applied behavioral analysis (ABA) for the treatment of autism spectrum disorders by health benefit plans, health care service contractors, the Public Employees' Benefit Board and Oregon Educators Benefit Board. It also sets up a regulatory board to license and oversee providers of ABA. Requirements don't apply to the state Medical Assistance Program, including the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) and Healthy Kids Connect. The law takes effect in 2016. The Governor is expected to sign the bill into law.

[SB 414](#) is a consumer protection law that will give the Insurance Division the authority to order restitution or equitable relief if an insurance company violates state or federal law, or the terms of its' contract.

[SB 172](#) requires birthing facilities in the state to screen infants for congenital heart defects. The law goes into effect in January, 2014.

[SB 284](#) requires the Oregon Health Authority to study and report on the feasibility of requiring all infants to be screened for lysosomal storage disorders. Examples include Krabbe disease, Pompe disease, Gaucher disease, Fabry disease, and Niemann-Pick disease. Early detection and treatment of these diseases can help avoid harmful physical and mental impacts.

[SB 123](#) establishes the Oregon Foster Children's Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights says that each foster child can file complaints about their care, safety or well-being, get notice of court hearings and reviews and have access to transportation to get there. Foster children will also receive certain kinds of information, including how to get medical, dental, vision, and mental health services and other information that can help support their transition to adulthood.

[House Bill \(HB\) 3000](#) requires public school students seven years of age or younger who are starting school to have vision screening. Students must have an eye exam and/or treatment, if needed.

[HB 2743](#) establishes a task force on high school and transition success for students with disabilities. The task force will study issues related to transitioning from youth-oriented programs and supports to adult service providers. The task force will also make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly. This bill is awaiting the Governor's signature.

## **These bills also passed. They have the potential to increase access to health care:**

**SB 569** standardizes the credentialing requirements for health care providers using telemedicine, eliminating barriers for physicians and increasing access to medical services. The bill is likely to have the greatest impact in rural areas, where there is greater need to increase patient access to services.

**SB 601** allows a relative caregiver with whom a minor child lives to consent to medical treatment and educational services for the child. This applies if consent of the legal parent or guardian cannot be obtained after reasonable efforts.

**SB 167** allows the state Public Health Director to authorize pharmacists to administer vaccines to persons three years of age or older during a disease outbreak or a public health emergency.

**HB 2902** requires insurers to pay physician assistants and nurse practitioners in independent practices at the same rate as physicians for the same services. This legislation is likely to have the biggest impact in rural areas where a physician assistant or nurse practitioner may be the primary source of health care.

### Mental Health Legislation

Mental health programs were addressed during the 2013 session. SB 823 did not pass. It would have created new mental health programs and significantly expanded the network of mental health services throughout the state. **However**, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) budget that was approved reflects an increase in spending on community mental health services for children and adolescents. The OHA budget also reflects increased spending to expand the Early Assessment and Support Alliance (EASA) program statewide. EASA is a treatment for program for adolescents experiencing the first signs of psychosis.

## **The following bill did not pass this session:**

**HB 3162** would have required manufacturers of children's products to disclose if their products contain certain chemicals which could negatively impact children's health.