# Senate Bill 8

Sponsored by Senators COURTNEY, MONNES ANDERSON

## **SUMMARY**

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced.** 

Allows volunteer health practitioner licensed in other state and registered with volunteer health practitioner registration system to practice in Oregon during emergency.

Limits liability of volunteer health practitioners.

Allows volunteer health practitioner to receive benefits if injured during emergency.

Allows Office of Emergency Management to adopt rules relating to volunteer health practitioners.

#### A BILL FOR AN ACT

- 2 Relating to emergency services; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 401.355, 401.375, 401.395, 401.415, 401.435, 401.465, 401.651, 401.661, 401.661, 401.664 and 401.667.
  - Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:
- 5 <u>SECTION 1.</u> Sections 1 to 13 of this 2009 Act may be cited as the Uniform Emergency 6 Volunteer Health Practitioners Act.
  - SECTION 2. As used in sections 1 to 13 of this 2009 Act:
  - (1) "Disaster relief organization" means an entity that provides emergency or disaster relief services that include health or veterinary services provided by volunteer health practitioners and that:
  - (a) Is designated or recognized as a provider of those services pursuant to a disaster response and recovery plan adopted by an agency of the federal government or the Office of Emergency Management; or
  - (b) Regularly plans and conducts its activities in coordination with an agency of the federal government or the office.
    - (2) "Emergency" has the meaning given that term in ORS 401.025.
  - (3) "Emergency declaration" means a declaration of a state of emergency under ORS 401.055.
  - (4) "Emergency Management Assistance Compact" means the interstate compact codified as ORS 401.043.
    - (5) "Entity" means a person other than an individual.
    - (6) "Health facility" means an entity licensed under the laws of this state or another state to provide health or veterinary services.
    - (7) "Health practitioner" means an individual licensed under the laws of this state or another state to provide health or veterinary services.
    - (8) "Health services" means the provision of treatment, care, advice, guidance or other services or supplies related to the health or death of individuals or human populations, to the extent necessary to respond to an emergency, including:
      - (a) The following, concerning the physical or mental condition or functional status of an

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individual or affecting the structure or function of the body:

- (A) Preventative, diagnostic, therapeutic, rehabilitative, maintenance or palliative care; and
  - (B) Counseling, assessment, procedures or other services;
- (b) The sale or dispensing of a drug, device, equipment or other item to an individual in accordance with a prescription; and
  - (c) Funeral, cremation, cemetery or other mortuary services.
- (9) "Host entity" means an entity operating in this state that uses volunteer health practitioners to respond to an emergency.
- (10) "License" means authorization by a state to engage in health or veterinary services that are unlawful without the authorization, including authorization under the laws of this state to an individual to provide health or veterinary services based on a national certification issued by a public or private entity.
- (11) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture, public corporation, government or governmental subdivision, agency, instrumentality or any other legal or commercial entity.
- (12) "Scope of practice" means the extent of the authorization to provide health or veterinary services granted to a health practitioner by a license issued to the practitioner in the state in which the principal part of the practitioner's services are rendered, including any conditions imposed by the licensing authority.
- (13) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.
- (14) "Veterinary services" means the provision of treatment, care, advice, guidance or other services or supplies related to the health or death of an animal or to animal populations to the extent necessary to respond to an emergency, including:
- (a) Diagnosis, treatment or prevention of an animal disease, injury or other physical or mental condition by the prescription, administration or dispensing of vaccine, medicine, surgery or therapy;
  - (b) Use of a procedure for reproductive management; and
- (c) Monitoring and treatment of animal populations for diseases that have spread or demonstrate the potential to spread to humans.
- (15) "Volunteer health practitioner" means a health practitioner who provides health or veterinary services, regardless of whether the practitioner receives compensation for the services. "Volunteer health practitioner" does not include a practitioner who receives compensation pursuant to a preexisting employment relationship with a host entity or affiliate that requires the practitioner to provide health services in this state, unless the practitioner is not a resident of this state and is employed by a disaster relief organization providing services in this state while an emergency declaration is in effect.
- SECTION 3. Sections 1 to 13 of this 2009 Act apply to volunteer health practitioners who are not licensed in this state, who are registered with a registration system that complies with section 5 of this 2009 Act and who provide health or veterinary services in this state for a host entity while an emergency declaration is in effect.
- <u>SECTION 4.</u> (1) While an emergency declaration is in effect, the Office of Emergency Management may limit, restrict or otherwise regulate:

- (a) The duration of practice by volunteer health practitioners;
  - (b) The geographical areas in which volunteer health practitioners may practice;
  - (c) The types of volunteer health practitioners who may practice; and
- (d) Any other matters necessary to effectively coordinate the provision of health or veterinary services during the emergency.
- (2) An order issued pursuant to subsection (1) of this section may take effect immediately, without prior notice or comment, and is not a rule within the meaning of ORS chapter 183.
- (3) A host entity that uses volunteer health practitioners to provide health or veterinary services in this state shall:
- (a) Consult and coordinate its activities with the office to the extent practicable to provide for the efficient and effective use of volunteer health practitioners; and
- (b) Comply with other laws relating to the management of emergency health or veterinary services.
- <u>SECTION 5.</u> (1) To qualify as a volunteer health practitioner registration system, a system must:
- (a) Accept applications for the registration of volunteer health practitioners before or during an emergency;
- (b) Include information about the licensure and good standing of health practitioners that is accessible by authorized persons;
- (c) Be capable of confirming the accuracy of information concerning whether a health practitioner is licensed and in good standing before health services or veterinary services are provided under section 6 of this 2009 Act; and
  - (d) Meet one of the following conditions:
- (A) Be an emergency system for advance registration of volunteer health practitioners established by a state and funded through the Department of Health and Human Services under section 319I of the Public Health Services Act, 42 U.S.C. 247d-7b;
- (B) Be a local unit consisting of trained and equipped emergency response, public health and medical personnel formed pursuant to section 2801 of the Public Health Services Act, 42 U.S.C. 300hh;
  - (C) Be operated by a:
  - (i) Disaster relief organization;
- (ii) Licensing board;

- (iii) National or regional association of licensing boards or health practitioners;
- (iv) Health facility that provides comprehensive inpatient and outpatient health services, including a tertiary care and teaching hospital; or
  - (v) Governmental entity; or
  - (D) Be designated by the Office of Emergency Management as a registration system for purposes of sections 1 to 13 of this 2009 Act.
  - (2) While an emergency declaration is in effect, the Office of Emergency Management, a person authorized to act on behalf of the office or a host entity may confirm whether volunteer health practitioners working in this state are registered with a registration system that complies with subsection (1) of this section. Confirmation must be limited to obtaining identities of the practitioners from the system and determining whether the system indicates that the practitioners are licensed and in good standing.

- (3) Upon request of a person in this state authorized under subsection (2) of this section or a similarly authorized person in another state, a registration system located in this state shall notify the person of the identities of volunteer health practitioners and whether the practitioners are licensed and in good standing.
- (4) A host entity is not required to use the services of a volunteer health practitioner even if the practitioner is registered with a registration system that indicates that the practitioner is licensed and in good standing.
- SECTION 6. (1) While an emergency declaration is in effect, a volunteer health practitioner who is registered with a registration system that complies with section 5 of this 2009 Act and who is licensed and in good standing in the state upon which the practitioner's registration is based may practice in this state as if the practitioner were licensed in this state.
- (2) A volunteer health practitioner qualified under subsection (1) of this section is not entitled to the protections of sections 1 to 13 of this 2009 Act if the practitioner is licensed in more than one state and any license of the practitioner is suspended, revoked or subject to an agency order limiting or restricting practice privileges, or has been voluntarily terminated under threat of sanction.

## SECTION 7. (1) As used in this section:

- (a) "Credentialing" means obtaining, verifying and assessing the qualifications of a health practitioner to provide treatment, care or services in or for a health facility.
- (b) "Privileging" means the authorizing by an appropriate authority, such as a governing body, of a health practitioner to provide specific treatment, care or services at a health facility subject to limits based on factors that include license, education, training, experience, competence, health status and specialized skill.
- (2) Sections 1 to 13 of this 2009 Act do not affect credentialing or privileging standards of a health facility and do not preclude a health facility from waiving or modifying those standards while an emergency declaration is in effect.
- SECTION 8. (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3) of this section, a volunteer health practitioner shall adhere to the scope of practice for a similarly licensed practitioner established by the licensing provisions, practice acts or other laws of this state.
- (2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) of this section, sections 1 to 13 of this 2009 Act do not authorize a volunteer health practitioner to provide services that are outside the practitioner's scope of practice, even if a similarly licensed practitioner in this state would be permitted to provide the services.
- (3) The Office of Emergency Management may modify or restrict the health or veterinary services that volunteer health practitioners may provide pursuant to section 6 of this 2009 Act. An order under this subsection may take effect immediately, without prior notice or comment, and is not a rule within the meaning of ORS chapter 183.
- (4) A host entity may restrict the health or veterinary services that a volunteer health practitioner may provide pursuant to section 6 of this 2009 Act.
- (5) A volunteer health practitioner does not engage in unauthorized practice unless the practitioner has reason to know of any limitation, modification or restriction under this section or that a similarly licensed practitioner in this state would not be permitted to provide the services. A volunteer health practitioner has reason to know of a limitation, modification or restriction or that a similarly licensed practitioner in this state would not be

permitted to provide a service if:

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- (a) The practitioner knows the limitation, modification or restriction exists or that a similarly licensed practitioner in this state would not be permitted to provide the service; or
- (b) From all the facts and circumstances known to the practitioner at the relevant time, a reasonable person would conclude that the limitation, modification or restriction exists or that a similarly licensed practitioner in this state would not be permitted to provide the service.
- (6) In addition to the authority granted by law of this state other than sections 1 to 13 of this 2009 Act to regulate the conduct of health practitioners, a licensing board or other disciplinary authority in this state:
- (a) May impose administrative sanctions upon a health practitioner licensed in this state for conduct outside of this state in response to an out-of-state emergency;
- (b) May impose administrative sanctions upon a practitioner not licensed in this state for conduct in this state in response to an in-state emergency; and
- (c) Shall report any administrative sanctions imposed upon a practitioner licensed in another state to the appropriate licensing board or other disciplinary authority in any other state in which the practitioner is known to be licensed.
- (7) In determining whether to impose administrative sanctions under subsection (6) of this section, a licensing board or other disciplinary authority shall consider the circumstances in which the conduct took place, including any exigent circumstances, and the practitioner's scope of practice, education, training, experience and specialized skill.
- SECTION 9. (1) Sections 1 to 13 of this 2009 Act do not limit rights, privileges or immunities provided to volunteer health practitioners by laws other than sections 1 to 13 of this 2009 Act. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2) of this section, sections 1 to 13 of this 2009 Act do not affect requirements for the use of health practitioners pursuant to the Emergency Management Assistance Compact.
- (2) The Office of Emergency Management, pursuant to the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, may incorporate into the emergency forces of this state volunteer health practitioners who are not officers or employees of this state, a political subdivision of this state or a municipality or other local government within this state.
- SECTION 10. The Office of Emergency Management may adopt rules to implement sections 1 to 13 of this 2009 Act. In doing so, the office shall consult with and consider rules adopted by similarly empowered agencies in other states to promote uniformity of application of sections 1 to 13 of this 2009 Act and make the emergency response systems in the various states reasonably compatible.
- SECTION 11. (1) Subject to subsection (3) of this section, a volunteer health practitioner who provides health or veterinary services pursuant to section 6 of this 2009 Act is not liable for damages for an act or omission of the practitioner in providing those services.
- (2) No person is vicariously liable for damages for an act or omission of a volunteer health practitioner if the practitioner is not liable for the damages under subsection (1) of this section.
  - (3) This section does not limit the liability of a volunteer health practitioner for:
  - (a) Willful misconduct or wanton, grossly negligent, reckless or criminal conduct;
  - (b) An intentional tort;

(c) Breach of contract;

- (d) A claim asserted by a host entity or by an entity located in this state or another state that employs or uses the services of the practitioner; or
- (e) An act or omission relating to the operation of a motor vehicle, vessel, aircraft or other vehicle.
- (4) A person who, pursuant to sections 1 to 13 of this 2009 Act, operates, uses or relies upon information provided by a volunteer health practitioner registration system is not liable for damages for an act or omission relating to that operation, use or reliance unless the act or omission is an intentional tort or is willful misconduct or wanton, grossly negligent, reckless or criminal conduct.
- (5) In addition to the protections provided in subsection (1) of this section, a volunteer health practitioner who provides health or veterinary services pursuant to section 6 of this 2009 Act is entitled to all the rights, privileges and immunities provided by ORS 401.515 and 401.667.
- SECTION 12. The Office of Emergency Management shall adopt rules, enter into agreements with other states or take other measures to facilitate the receipt of benefits for injury or death under ORS 401.355 to 401.465 by volunteer health practitioners, and may waive or modify requirements for filing, processing and paying claims that unreasonably burden volunteer health practitioners. To promote the uniform application of sections 1 to 13 of this 2009 Act with other states that enact similar legislation, the office shall consult with and consider the practices for filing, processing and paying claims by agencies with similar authority in other states.
- SECTION 13. In applying and construing sections 1 to 13 of this 2009 Act, consideration must be given to the need to promote uniformity of the law with respect to its subject matter among the states that enact it.
- SECTION 14. Section 15 of this 2009 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 401.355 to 401.465.
- SECTION 15. As used in ORS 401.355 to 401.465, "volunteer health practitioner" means an individual who is qualified to practice in this state under section 6 of this 2009 Act.
  - SECTION 16. ORS 401.355 is amended to read:
- 401.355. (1) An emergency service worker may apply for and may receive benefits as provided in ORS 401.355 to 401.465 for injury sustained in emergency service performed within or without the state **if**:
- (a) [Where] The injury is proximately caused by or **occurs** in the course of emergency service, with or without negligence of the emergency service worker[.];
- (b) [Where] The injury is not caused by the voluntary intoxication of the emergency service worker[.]; and
  - (c) [Where] The injury is not intentionally self-inflicted.
- (2) A volunteer health practitioner may apply for and may receive benefits as provided in ORS 401.355 to 401.465 for injury sustained while the volunteer health practitioner is practicing in this state under section 6 of this 2009 Act if:
- (a) The injury is proximately caused by or occurs in the course of the volunteer health practitioner's practice under section 6 of this 2009 Act, with or without negligence of the volunteer health practitioner;
  - (b) The injury is not caused by the voluntary intoxication of the volunteer health prac-

## titioner; and

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- (c) The injury is not intentionally self-inflicted.
- [(2)] (3) [No] An emergency service worker, volunteer health practitioner or beneficiary is not eligible for benefits under ORS 401.355 to 401.465[:]
- [(a)] if the emergency service worker or volunteer health practitioner is entitled to receive benefits under the workers' compensation laws of this state or similar statutes in other states or under any disability, retirement or liability insurance program of the worker's or volunteer's regular employer who has contributed to the cost thereof, or under any federal or local program for compensation of injuries of public employees, in those cases where the injury is compensable because it arose out of and in the course of emergency service duties performed as part of the regular employment of the emergency service worker or volunteer health practitioner.
- [(b) If the emergency service worker is a member of a federal emergency management or emergency service agency or an emergency management or emergency service agency of another state or foreign nation who is performing emergency services in this state.]

## SECTION 17. ORS 401.375 is amended to read:

401.375. Emergency service [shall not be deemed] is not employment in violation of [any] laws of this state relating to labor by minors. "Emergency service" includes all activities authorized and carried on pursuant to ORS 401.015 to 401.107, 401.257 to 401.325 and 401.355 to 401.584 and sections 1 to 13 of this 2009 Act, including [such] training as is necessary and proper to engage in such activities.

## SECTION 18. ORS 401.395 is amended to read:

- 401.395. If an emergency service worker **or volunteer health practitioner** sustains an injury, benefits shall be paid in the same manner as provided for injured workers under the workers' compensation laws of this state, except that:
- (1) If the injury results in temporary partial disability, [no benefits shall accrue to] the injured emergency service worker or volunteer health practitioner may not receive benefits on account of loss of wages due to such disability.
- (2) Costs of rehabilitation services to emergency service workers or volunteer health practitioners with disabilities shall be paid from funds specifically appropriated [therefor] for that purpose in an amount approved by the Office of Emergency Management[, which shall be] as the reasonable and necessary cost of [such] the services, including services of a physician or rehabilitation facility specially qualified to render rehabilitation services. Expenses of rehabilitation may include travel, board and room, when necessary.
- (3) The maximum amount payable for medical, surgical or hospital expenses, compensation and rehabilitation on any one claim [shall] **may** not exceed \$20,000.

# SECTION 19. ORS 401.415 is amended to read:

401.415. The filing of claims for benefits under ORS 401.355 to 401.465 is the exclusive remedy of an emergency service worker, **volunteer health practitioner** or beneficiary for injuries compensable under ORS 401.355 to 401.465 against the state or its political subdivision or any emergency management agency or other person acting under governmental authority in furtherance of emergency service activities, regardless of negligence.

## **SECTION 20.** ORS 401.435 is amended to read:

401.435. An emergency service worker or volunteer health practitioner may appeal any question of law or fact [may be appealed] to the circuit court of the county where the injury occurred within 30 days from the date of mailing of the final decision by the Office of Emergency

1 Management[, if the emergency service worker is dissatisfied with the final decision].

**SECTION 21.** ORS 401.465 is amended to read:

401.465. Funds available for purposes of ORS 401.355 to 401.465 may be used to effect insurance or reinsurance with any authority or instrumentality, public or private, or otherwise to distribute the liability for compensation payable to emergency service workers and volunteer health practitioners.

## **SECTION 22.** ORS 401.651 is amended to read:

- 401.651. As used in ORS 401.651 to 401.670:
- (1) "Health care facility" means a health care facility as defined in ORS 442.015 that has been licensed under ORS chapter 441.
- (2) "Health care provider" means an individual licensed, certified or otherwise authorized or permitted by the laws of this state to administer health care services in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession.
- (3) "Volunteer health practitioner" means a person who is qualified to practice in this state under section 6 of this 2009 Act.

**SECTION 23.** ORS 401.657 is amended to read:

- 401.657. (1) The Department of Human Services may designate all or part of a health care facility or other location as an emergency health care center. Upon the Governor declaring a state of emergency under ORS 401.055, or proclaiming a state of public health emergency after determining that a threat to the public health is imminent and likely to be widespread, life-threatening and of a scope that requires immediate medical action to protect the public health, emergency health care centers may be used for:
  - (a) Evaluation and referral of individuals affected by the emergency;
  - (b) Provision of health care services; and
  - (c) Preparation of patients for transportation.
- (2) The department may enter into cooperative agreements with local public health authorities that allow local public health authorities to designate emergency health care centers under this section.
- (3) An emergency health care center designated under this section must have an emergency operations plan and a credentialing plan that governs the use of emergency health care providers registered under ORS 401.654, volunteer health practitioners and other health care providers who volunteer to perform health care services at the center under ORS 401.651 to 401.670. The emergency operations plan and credentialing plan must comply with rules governing those plans adopted by the department.

## **SECTION 24.** ORS 401.661 is amended to read:

- 401.661. Upon the Governor declaring a state of emergency under ORS 401.055, or proclaiming a state of public health emergency after determining that a threat to the public health is imminent and likely to be widespread, life-threatening and of a scope that requires immediate medical action to protect the public health:
- (1) The Department of Human Services may direct emergency health care providers registered under ORS 401.654 and volunteer health practitioners who are willing to provide health care services on a voluntary basis to proceed to any place in this state where health care services are required by reason of the emergency or crisis; and
- (2) [Any] An emergency health care provider registered under ORS 401.654, volunteer health practitioner or other health care provider may volunteer to perform health care services [described]

in ORS 401.657] at any emergency health care center or health care facility [in the manner provided by ORS 401.664].

#### **SECTION 25.** ORS 401.664 is amended to read:

- 401.664. (1) Emergency health care providers registered under ORS 401.654, volunteer health practitioners and other health care providers who volunteer to perform health care services under ORS 401.651 to 401.670 must provide those services in accordance with the emergency operations plan and credentialing plan adopted by the emergency health care center or by the health care facility at which the services are rendered.
- (2) An emergency health care center or health care facility may determine the services to be provided by any emergency health care provider registered under ORS 401.654, **volunteer health practitioner** or other health care provider who volunteers to perform health care services under ORS 401.651 to 401.670.

## **SECTION 26.** ORS 401.667 is amended to read:

- 401.667. (1) Emergency health care providers registered under ORS 401.654, **volunteer health practitioners** and other health care providers who volunteer to perform health care services without compensation under ORS 401.651 to 401.670 are agents of the state under ORS 30.260 to 30.300 for the purposes of any claims arising out of those services.
- (2) Health care facilities and other persons operating emergency health care centers designated under ORS 401.657 are agents of the state under ORS 30.260 to 30.300 for the purposes of any claims arising out of services provided without compensation through those centers or facilities under ORS 401.651 to 401.670.
- (3) An emergency health care provider registered under ORS 401.654 participating in training authorized by the Department of Human Services under ORS 401.651 to 401.670 is an agent of the state under ORS 30.260 to 30.300 for the purposes of any claims arising out of that training.
- (4) The provisions of subsections (1) and (2) of this section apply only to emergency health care centers or health care facilities that have adopted emergency operations plans and credentialing plans that govern the use of emergency health care providers registered under ORS 401.654, volunteer health practitioners and other health care providers who volunteer to perform health care services under ORS 401.651 to 401.670. An emergency operations plan and a credentialing plan must comply with rules governing those plans adopted by the Department of Human Services.
- SECTION 27. Sections 1 to 15 of this 2009 Act and the amendments to ORS 401.355, 401.375, 401.395, 401.415, 401.435, 401.465, 401.651, 401.657, 401.661, 401.664 and 401.667 by sections 16 to 26 of this 2009 Act apply to volunteer health practitioners practicing in this state during emergencies declared on or after the effective date of this 2009 Act.