

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bates, Kruse, Morse, Shields, Monnes Anderson
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Brian Niebuurt, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/14, 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows a retired health care provider to register as an emergency health care provider and to provide health care services without license or certification during a Governor-declared emergency. Requires that provider have been previously licensed, certified or otherwise authorized to provide health care services by an Oregon health professional regulatory board. Allows the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to adopt rules, after consultation with health professional regulatory boards, which establish criteria and requirements for including persons on the emergency health care provider registry (registry). Makes criminal background checks a requirement for inclusion on the registry. Allows OHA to direct emergency health care providers to another state where emergency health care services are required.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Potential for emergency situations
- Lack of access to medical providers in rural areas
- Barriers to acting as an emergency volunteer
- Need to determine competency of non-licensed volunteers
- Potential impact of laws requiring insurance coverage and worker's compensation benefit for qualified emergency service workers and qualified search and rescue volunteers

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Clarifies requirements to register as an emergency health care provider. Makes criminal background checks a requirement for inclusion on the registry. Allows OHA to direct emergency health care providers to another state where emergency health care services are required.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program (Program) has a registry for health care volunteers. The Program currently has over 1,400 registered volunteers. Current law only allows individuals licensed, certified or otherwise authorized or permitted to administer health care services by the laws of Oregon or another state to register as an emergency health care provider.

SB 563-A would expand the law to allow retired individuals who were previously licensed, certified or otherwise authorized or permitted to administer health care services by the laws of Oregon to register as an emergency health care provider. This change would reportedly benefit rural areas that have a limited number of registered volunteers.