

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote:	9 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Barton, Cameron, Garrett, Hicks, Krieger, Olson, Tomei, Williamson, Barker
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Mike Schmidt, Counsel
Meeting Dates:	2/21, 4/15, 4/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates new standards for courts to order people to engage in outpatient assisted treatment. Creates standard that person ordered to engage in outpatient assisted treatment is deteriorating to point that person will predictably become a person with mental illness as defined in ORS 426.005. Lists factors court shall consider when making such a determination. Conforms language across all statutes to “persons with mental illness” rather than “mentally ill person.” Allows people who would not meet the high standard required for inpatient commitment to be ordered to engage in outpatient treatment in the community they live in.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Police officers are on the front lines of mental health crisis response, and will often look for ways to get people off of the streets but consistently find that people suffering or in crisis are turned away from hospitals because they do not meet the stringent criteria necessary for inpatient commitment.
- It is not intention of House Bill 2594 A to require forced medication, or to use jails or hospitals to punish people.
- Intention is to order people who would not voluntarily seek out mental health resources to meet with treatment providers, and to set them up with resources that may be able to help.

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Makes new standard for outpatient assisted treatment that people who would not meet the high standard required for inpatient commitment could be ordered to engage in outpatient treatment in the community they live in.

BACKGROUND: Currently in Oregon the statutes, as interpreted through the case law, put a very high bar on the findings that a court has to make in order for a person to be civilly committed. Essentially, the law requires that the courts find by clear and convincing evidence that a person is imminently a danger to his/herself, others, or on the precipice of expiration due to an inability to care for their basic needs. House Bill 2594 A creates a new standard with lesser barriers for those who do not meet the high criteria required for inpatient commitment. A person meeting this new standard would be under jurisdiction of the court, and would be required to participate in outpatient assisted treatment.