

House Bill 2825

Sponsored by Representative KENY-GUYER, Senator STEINER HAYWARD; Representatives BOONE, FREDERICK, OLSON, WILLIAMSON, Senator GELSNER

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**.

Requires Oregon Health Authority to seek out and apply for funding for, and appropriates moneys from General Fund to pay for, crisis intervention services and residential care for individuals with mental illness. Directs authority to convene work group.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to services for individuals with mental illness; and declaring an emergency.

Whereas Oregon's mental health care system suffers from bottlenecks that keep people who are ready for discharge from psychiatric institutions in those institutions for the lack of available community housing and keep people who need psychiatric hospitalization from being admitted to hospitals because of overcrowding; and

Whereas the inefficient use of psychiatric hospital beds and the inappropriate use of public safety systems to address the needs of people with mental illness result in poor outcomes for people who live with serious mental illness; now, therefore,

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) The Oregon Health Authority shall seek out and apply for grants, gifts and contributions of moneys to pay for:

(a) The development of infrastructure for subacute residential care and community-based housing for individuals with mental illness; and

(b) Crisis intervention services, rental subsidies and other housing-related services provided through coordinated care organizations to help keep individuals with mental illness safe and healthy in their communities.

(2) The authority shall use moneys received under subsection (1)(a) of this section and any legislative appropriation for such purposes to provide funding for not more than:

(a) Twenty percent of the costs for the construction of housing; and

(b) Fifty percent of the start-up costs of the housing, including but not limited to fixtures, furnishing and training of staff.

(3)(a) The authority shall develop a list of projects to be financed in part with funds provided under this section. The authority shall convene a work group to advise the authority in developing and prioritizing the list of projects. The work group shall meet at least four times before finalizing the prioritized list.

(b) The work group must include:

(A) One representative of a private provider of mental health treatment;

(B) One representative of a private provider of substance abuse treatment;

(C) Two representatives of groups that advocate on behalf of consumers of mental health

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 or substance abuse treatment;

2 (D) Two staff persons from the division of the Oregon Health Authority that regulates
3 mental health and substance abuse treatment programs;

4 (E) Two consumers of mental health or substance abuse treatment;

5 (F) One representative of the community mental health program of the Association of
6 Oregon Counties;

7 (G) One person with expertise in developing and financing community housing projects;
8 and

9 (H) One representative of community corrections.

10 SECTION 2. All moneys received by the Oregon Health Authority under section 1 of this
11 2015 Act shall be paid into the State Treasury and deposited to the credit of the Oregon
12 Health Authority Fund. Such moneys shall be used by the authority for the purposes of
13 section 1 of this 2015 Act.

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated to the Oregon Health Authority, for the biennium be-
15 ginning July 1, 2015, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$ _____ million for the pur-
16 poses described in section 1 of this 2015 Act.

17 SECTION 4. This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
18 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect
19 on its passage.
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