

# House Bill 3026

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND LABOR

## 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**.

Establishes task force to study need for and processes for providing counseling services for injured workers and to make recommendations for legislation regarding counseling services for injured workers. Requires task force to submit report and its recommendations to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2016.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to counseling services for injured workers; and declaring an emergency.

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

**SECTION 1. (1) The Task Force on Counseling Services for Injured Workers is established, consisting of 11 members appointed as follows:**

**(a) The President of the Senate shall appoint one member from among members of the Senate.**

**(b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member from among members of the House of Representatives.**

**(c) The Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services shall appoint nine members, three of whom shall represent injured workers in this state, three of whom shall represent employers in this state, two of whom shall represent mental health professionals, and one of whom shall represent the interests of the public.**

**(2) The task force shall collect and synthesize information about the need for and processes for providing counseling services for injured workers suffering from conditions such as situational anxiety or depression that are not part of an accepted workers' compensation claim. The task force shall also make recommendations regarding legislation necessary for treatment of situational anxiety and depression that may improve chances of an injured worker returning to work or shorten a worker's time away from work. Any proposed legislation must address the provision of counseling services in a manner that ensures the integrity of the workers' compensation system in this state.**

**(3) A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.**

**(4) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the members of the task force.**

**(5) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.**

**(6) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appointment to become immediately effective.**

**(7) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson or of a majority of the members of the task force.**

**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 (8) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

2 (9) The task force shall submit a report and the recommendations described in subsection  
3 (2) of this section to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to the need  
4 for counseling services for injured workers as appropriate no later than September 15, 2016.

5 (10) The Department of Consumer and Business Services shall provide staff support to  
6 the task force.

7 (11) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are not  
8 entitled to compensation, but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary travel and other  
9 expenses incurred by them in the performance of their official duties in the manner and  
10 amounts provided for in ORS 292.495. Claims for expenses incurred in performing functions  
11 of the task force shall be paid out of funds appropriated to the Department of Consumer and  
12 Business Services for purposes of the task force.

13 (12) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist  
14 the task force in the performance of its duties and, to the extent permitted by laws relating  
15 to confidentiality, to furnish such information and advice as the members of the task force  
16 consider necessary to perform their duties.

17 SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2015 Act is repealed on December 31, 2016.

18 SECTION 3. This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
19 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect  
20 on its passage.

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