

HB 2620 – Protection for Workers in Oregon Hospitals

HB 2620 amends ORS 163.165 to add people working in hospitals to the list of professions who, if they are ***intentionally, knowingly or recklessly assaulted*** while performing their jobs, the crime is a class C felony.

The workers currently covered by ORS 163.165 include professions who, like hospital staff, are ***required to serve all members of the public***: emergency medical services (ambulance) personnel, youth correction facility staff, public transit vehicle operators, taxi drivers.

Intentional ***violent acts against hospital staff occur despite extensive training*** of hospital employees about how to prevent violence as well as how to recognize and de-escalate potentially violent situations.

***Most other states have already taken action*** to enhance criminal penalties for assaults against hospital employees; currently 39 states, including Washington, have done so.

HB 2620 ***does not remove any protections for mentally ill or impaired patients*** who may be violent, but are not able to form criminal intent.

HB 2620 is supported by:



**Contact:**

**Paul Cosgrove**

503.799.5679; [pcosgrove@lindsayhart.com](mailto:pcosgrove@lindsayhart.com)