

SB 17 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

Prepared By: Cassandra Soucy, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/27, 5/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Removes requirement that the superintendents of the Oregon State Hospital and Department of Corrections designate a chief medical officer for their institutions.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Superintendent authorization of Chief Medical Officers for institutions
- New processes to allow Central Division Chief Medical Officer to appoint
- Increased institutions in Department of Corrections when statute was enacted

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Current Oregon law requires that superintendents of certain state institutions designate a chief medical officer for that institution, including superintendents of state hospitals administered by the Oregon Health Authority and superintendents of incarceration facilities administered by the Department of Corrections (DOC). A chief medical officer answers directly to the superintendent and must be licensed by the Oregon Medical Board, and once they are designated they are responsible for the administration of the facility's medical treatment program. In practice, DOC's Health Services Director has appointed chief medical officers, not superintendents of individual institutions. A recent court ruling invalidated this practice, in part because it conflicts with current statute.

Senate Bill 17 removes the requirement that superintendents must designate a chief medical officer for their facility, permitting DOC to continue its current practice.