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 Oregon Psychiatric Access Line program in Oregon Health and Science University. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to telephone access by primary care providers to psychiatric physician consultations; and declaring an emergency.

Whereas Oregon has historically ranked low in the nation for access to mental health services; and
Whereas Oregon has poor mental health outcomes compared to other states; and
Whereas primary care providers are the main workforce providing mental health services to Oregonians; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. (1) There is established the Oregon Psychiatric Access Line program in the Oregon Health and Science University.

(2) The Oregon Psychiatric Access Line program shall provide telephone or electronic real-time psychiatric physician consultations to primary care providers:

(a) Who care for patients with mental health disorders.
(b) From 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on all business days.

SECTION 2. All unexpended moneys appropriated to the Oregon Health Authority for the biennium ending June 30, 2019, for the operation of a psychiatric access line for primary care providers caring for children and adolescents are transferred to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for the benefit of the Oregon Health and Science University in carrying out section 1 of this 2018 Act.

SECTION 3. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for the benefit of the Oregon Health and Science University, for the biennium ending June 30, 2019, out of the General Fund, the amount of $900,000, which may be expended for providing access to the Oregon Psychiatric Access Line for primary care providers caring for individuals 19 years of age or older.

SECTION 4. This 2018 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2018 Act takes effect on its passage.