

SB 140 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 1/28, 3/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Emergency Department Boarding Pilot Project in the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). Requires OHA to provide grants to hospitals to determine the effectiveness of strategies for providing immediate access to appropriate treatment for individuals experiencing behavioral health crises who are being held in an emergency room due to lack of alternative treatment options. Establishes the Task Force on Emergency Department Boarding (Task Force) and specifies membership. Requires Task Force to submit initial recommendations to the Legislative Assembly by February 1, 2020 and final recommendations by September 15, 2020. Appropriates \$1,000 out of the General Fund to the OHA for the purpose of providing grants. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Requires at least one grant to be to a hospital located in a rural or frontier area. Adds members to Task Force. Requires Task Force to propose solutions, including statutory changes, state funding, and workforce development. Increases appropriation to \$3,500,000.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) 2015-'17 budget (Senate Bill 5526) included a budget note that required the OHA to report to the 2016 legislative session regarding the problem of "boarding" of patients with mental illness in hospital emergency departments while the patients wait for a bed in an appropriate setting. In response to the direction given in the budget note, OHA contracted with Oregon State University's College of Public Health and Human Services to conduct a study on "boarding" in Oregon hospital emergency departments (EDs). Completed in October 2016, the study found that psychiatric patients receive sub-optimal care in EDs; "boarding" negatively impacts the care of other ED patients by reducing ED capacity and increasing pressure on ED staff; and, "boarding" place significant financial strain on hospitals. The report made nine recommendations:

- Quantify and regularly monitor the extent of boarding
- Expand community health services
- Improve processes to restore individuals unable to aid and assist in their own defense
- Improve psychiatric services for individuals in EDs
- Provide alternatives to inpatient care
- Improve transitions for patients in community acute care and Oregon State Hospital
- Provide supportive services such as supported employment and substance use disorder treatment
- Promote insurance and health services reimbursement changes to incentivize community services
- Increase the transparency of waitlists for inpatient and Oregon State Hospital Beds

Senate Bill 140 establishes a pilot project that would provide grants hospitals to implement strategies aimed at reducing "boarding" and creates a task force to develop additional recommendations for he Legislative Assembly.

PRELIMINARY