

## SB 253 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Health Care

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**Prepared By:** Oliver Droppers, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 5/16

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Authorizes the Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) Public Health Officer to appoint a local health officer for a county that has transferred the responsibility of the local public health authority (LPHA) in the county to the OHA. Requires ordinance or resolution transferring LPHA responsibilities to OHA to specify the disparity in funding necessitating transfer. Allows OHA discretion to transfer responsibility from an LPHA to OHA earlier than 180 days after adoption of local ordinance mandating transfer. Clarifies if an LPHA transfers its responsibilities, OHA has the authority of the LPHA and local public health administrator within the former LPHA's jurisdiction. Specifies process for returning responsibility for fulfilling duties and responsibilities back to LPHA. Allows LPHA to employ person other than local public health administrator as local health officer. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

*REVENUE: No revenue impact.*

*FISCAL: No fiscal impact.*

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

In 2013, the Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 2348, which created the Future of Public Health Services Task Force (Task Force). The Task Force was charged with developing recommendations to modernize Oregon's public health system. This work resulted in House Bill 3100, which the Legislative Assembly passed in 2015. House Bill 3100 gave local public health jurisdictions additional flexibility to help meet community needs, including the ability to transfer local public health authority to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). A local health officer appointed by OHA must be a licensed physician and able to perform the medical responsibilities that require the services of a physician. In 2018, Wallowa County transferred its local public health authorities to OHA, the first county in Oregon to return such responsibilities back to the agency.

Senate Bill 253-A grants OHA the authority to appoint a local health officer in a county and clarifies the process for a local health authority to transfer its public health authority to the State.

*1st Chamber vote (Senate): Ayes, 24; Nays, 5.*