

SB 141 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 04/01/19

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

Vote: 4-0-1-0

Yeas: 4 - Beyer, Fagan, Linthicum, Monnes Anderson

Exc: 1 - Knopp

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 1/28, 1/30, 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to issue grants to hospitals to establish and maintain appropriate emergency department protocols for patients who present with suicidal ideation or have attempted suicide. Authorizes OHA to make rules to establish procedures by which a hospital may apply for grants. Requires OHA to study barriers to availability of appropriate follow-up care for patients after a behavioral health crisis. Requires OHA to report to the Legislative Assembly by October 15, 2020, with recommendations to increase access to providers in each community for patients released from an emergency department following treatment for a behavioral health crisis. Appropriates \$4,000,000 General Fund to OHA for grants. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Potential cost
- Current services offered by hospitals
- Provisions of House Bill 3090 (2017) and other attempts to improve behavioral health policies and outcomes

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

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

- Quantify and regularly monitor the extent of boarding
- Expand community health services
- Improve criminal justice 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 the 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

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- Increase the transparency of waitlists for inpatient and Oregon State Hospital beds

Senate Bill 141-A requires OHA to issue grants to hospitals to establish and maintain appropriate emergency department protocols for patients who present in emergency departments with suicidal ideation or who have attempted suicide.