

## SB 140 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Health Care

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**Action Date:** 04/08/19

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

**Vote:** 5-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 5 - Beyer, Fagan, Knopp, Linthicum, Monnes Anderson

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**Meeting Dates:** 1/28, 4/3, 4/8

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#### 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. Requires at least one grant award to a hospital located in a rural or frontier area. 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 \$3,250,000 from General Fund to OHA for administration of grants. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Inappropriate emergency department utilization due to lack of behavioral health resources and placement options
- Impact of psychiatric boarding in emergency departments
- Stakeholder input needed on Task Force

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Requires at least one grant award to a hospital located in a rural or frontier area. Adds members to Task Force. Clarifies required Task Force recommendations. Increases appropriation to \$3,250,000.

#### 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

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- 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-A establishes a pilot project to provide grants to hospitals to implement strategies aimed at reducing emergency department boarding and creates a task force to develop additional recommendations for the Legislative Assembly.