

SB 253 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Rep. Greenlick**House Committee On Health Care****Action Date:** 05/16/19**Action:** Do Pass the A-Eng bill.**Vote:** 11-0-0-0**Yeas:** 11 - Alonso Leon, Boles, Drazan, Greenlick, Hayden, Keny-Guyer, Mitchell, Noble, Nosse, Prusak, Salinas**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Oliver Droppers, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 5/16**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 responsibility of the local public health authority (LPHA) to 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 OHA has the authority of the LPHA and local public health administrator within the former LPHA's jurisdiction upon transfer of responsibilities. Specifies process to restore LPHA's responsibilities. Allows LPHA to employ person other than local public health administrator as local health officer. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Transfer of authority between OHA and local public health authority (LPHA)
- Ensuring availability of public health functions and services at the county level, statewide
- Decrease period of time to voluntarily transfer authority from LPHA to OHA
- Wallowa County as the only county in Oregon to have transferred its local public health authority to OHA

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 (2015), which provided local public health jurisdictions additional flexibility to meet community needs, including the ability to transfer local public health authority to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). 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 responsibilities to OHA.