SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor’s brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Requires Oregon Health Authority to [establish or contract for establishment of statewide mental health crisis support access line to facilitate specified services for individuals experiencing behavioral health crises.] issue grants to Oregon hospitals to establish and maintain, or contract with third party to provide, process for providing caring contacts to hospital patients who present in emergency department with suicidal ideation or attempted suicide.

Requires authority to study existing barriers within communities of this state that limit availability of appropriate follow-up care for patients discharged from hospitals following treatment for behavioral health crises and to report to Legislative Assembly by October 15, 2020.


Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to individuals experiencing behavioral health crises; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) The Oregon Health Authority shall issue grants to hospitals in this state for the purpose of establishing and maintaining, or contracting with a third party to provide, a process for providing caring contacts to patients who present in the emergency department with suicidal ideation or attempted suicide, as may be required under ORS 441.053 or by rules adopted by the authority under ORS 441.053.

(2) A hospital may use grant moneys received under this section for costs incurred on or after January 1, 2019, that are associated with establishing and maintaining, or contracting to provide, a process described in subsection 1 of this section.

(3) The authority may determine the amount of a grant issued to a hospital under this section.

(4) The authority may, by rule, establish procedures by which a hospital may apply for grants under this section.

SECTION 2. (1) The Oregon Health Authority shall study the existing barriers within each community in this state that limit the availability of appropriate follow-up care for patients released or discharged from a hospital following treatment for a behavioral health crisis. The authority shall develop recommendations on how to reduce or remove the existing barriers and increase patient access to providers in a given community that may support the needs of the patient after being released or discharged from a hospital following treatment for a behavioral health crisis.
(2) The authority shall submit a report on the findings and recommendations described in subsection (1) of this section, and may include recommendations for legislation, to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to health care, in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, no later than October 15, 2020.

SECTION 3. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Oregon Health Authority, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, out of the General Fund, the amount of $4,000,000 for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of section 1 of this 2019 Act.

SECTION 4. Section 1 of this 2019 Act becomes operative on July 1, 2019.

SECTION 5. Sections 1 and 2 of this 2019 Act are repealed on June 30, 2021.

SECTION 6. This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect on its passage.