

DRAFT

SUMMARY

Directs Oregon Health Authority to study public health system response to COVID-19 pandemic. Requires reports to interim committee of Legislative Assembly related to public health.

Sunsets April 1, 2024.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to public health preparedness; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. The Oregon Health Authority shall study the state's public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic and prepare the reports described in this section.

(1) At a minimum, the study shall initially:

(a) Focus on the public health system, including federal, state and local resources and how funding was coordinated between the state, counties and local governments and community organizations;

(b) Identify efficiencies and deficiencies in the public health system response, areas for improvement and needed investment;

(c) Consider emergency management coordination with the public health system, including distribution of personal protective equipment, where vaccines and testing were provided and isolation and quarantine best practices and guidance;

(d) Analyze the enforcement of public health requirements by the state, local governments and schools;

(e) Examine the efficacy of enforcement of pandemic control

1 evidence-based practices, including any statewide public health man-
2 dates, at the county and local levels;

3 (f) Examine outcomes related to public health modernization im-
4 plementation, including the roles that public-private partnerships
5 played and any challenges posed by the current intersection of state
6 and county public health systems;

7 (g) Compare the health equity outcomes related to the COVID-19
8 pandemic response, including second-hand health disparities resulting
9 from the increased strain on hospitals, health systems and resources;

10 (h) Engage in a qualitative, in-depth analysis of utilization of re-
11 sources, differing regulations and enforcement of evidence-based
12 pandemic control practices across this state; and

13 (i) Assess messaging in general, including whether best practices in
14 public health communication were used during the COVID-19
15 pandemic.

16 (2)(a) The authority shall prepare a report that, in addition to in-
17 formation regarding the topics described in subsection (1) of this sec-
18 tion, includes at least:

19 (A) A broad review of the COVID-19 pandemic;

20 (B) Identification of areas in the public health system COVID-19
21 response that need improvement;

22 (C) Recommendations to improve the public health system
23 COVID-19 response;

24 (D) A summary of key lessons learned; and

25 (E) Recommendations for improving:

26 (i) Public health system resiliency; and

27 (ii) Other deficiencies identified in the study.

28 (b) The authority shall submit, in the manner provided in ORS
29 192.245, the report described in paragraph (a) of this subsection to an
30 interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to public health
31 not later than November 15, 2022.

1 **(3) In addition to the study described in subsection (1) of this sec-**
2 **tion, the authority shall perform a study to:**

3 **(a) Identify any local epidemiological data and capacity issues, in-**
4 **cluding those that affected the reporting of data to statewide data**
5 **systems;**

6 **(b) Clarify the roles of hospitals, long-term care facilities and local**
7 **public health programs in response coordination;**

8 **(c) Compare health and health system data, including COVID-19**
9 **positivity rates, rates of COVID-19 infection, hospital capacity and**
10 **other core metrics, with the efficacy of statewide public health man-**
11 **date enforcement; and**

12 **(d) Investigate specific public health workforce challenges.**

13 **(4)(a) The authority shall prepare a report that, in addition to in-**
14 **formation regarding the topics described in subsection (3) of this sec-**
15 **tion, includes at least:**

16 **(A) An in-depth report of nongovernmental and community partner**
17 **contributions to the COVID-19 response; and**

18 **(B) Recommendations for improving specific public health**
19 **workforce challenges.**

20 **(b) The authority shall submit, in the manner provided in ORS**
21 **192.245, the report described in paragraph (a) of this subsection to an**
22 **interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to public health**
23 **not later than April 1, 2023.**

24 **(5) The authority shall submit, in the manner provided in ORS**
25 **192.245, a report that includes a final evaluation and synthesis of the**
26 **topics described in subsections (1) and (3) of this section and a final**
27 **analysis, including the findings and recommendations described in**
28 **subsections (2) and (4) of this section, to an interim committee of the**
29 **Legislative Assembly related to public health not later than September**
30 **1, 2023.**

31 **(6) In order to perform the studies described in subsections (1) and**

1 (3) of this section and prepare the reports described in subsections (2),
2 (4) and (5) of this section, the authority shall contract with an inde-
3 pendent third-party consultant with experience in performing public
4 health after-action studies and preparing reports. The consultant shall
5 perform the studies in partnership with urban, rural, frontier, small
6 and large counties in this state, and shall perform all assessments as
7 a neutral party.

8 SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2022 Act is repealed on April 1, 2024.

9 SECTION 3. This 2022 Act being necessary for the immediate pres-
10 ervation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is de-
11 clared to exist, and this 2022 Act takes effect on its passage.

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