

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 13: Oregon Health Authority Oregon State Hospital Staffing

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Human Services Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Lieber

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means defer action on a request to increase staffing levels at the Oregon State Hospital to the 2022 legislative session.

OHA has requested \$33.5 million General Fund and 493 positions to address an ongoing staffing shortfall at the hospital. The main part of the proposal is the adoption of a posting factor to calculate the number of nursing staff needed for the hospital to remain securely staffed 24-hours a day. Other positions are requested to enhance clinical services and operations, as well as small investments for staff training and the hospital's time and attendance system. The agency also recommends making the hospital's staff eligible for police and fire retirement benefits and adopting a 36-hour schedule for nurses, both of which currently have an unknown cost impact.

OHA's staffing proposal was submitted in response to a budget note approved during the 2021 legislative session. If the legislature eventually approves the agency's request or portions of it, a related \$20 million special purpose appropriation is available to support the costs.

The Subcommittee recommends approval.