

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 71: Oregon State Board of Nursing Licensing and DOJ Cost Increases

To: Emergency Board Full Committee
From: Human Services Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Girod

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends that the Emergency Board increase the Other Funds expenditure limitation for the Oregon State Board of Nursing by \$664,645 and authorize the establishment of two limited duration positions (1.08 FTE) for increased licensing and legal costs.

The Oregon State Board of Nursing is experiencing cost increases due to a greater number of applications for nursing licensing. This is primarily driven by a significant increase in the licensing of nurses coming from other states. The COVID pandemic has made hospitals and other health entities turn to these out-of-state nurses to fill vacancies in the profession. Costs have also increased due to higher fingerprinting costs including a higher fee charged by the State Police. Two limited duration positions are recommended to keep pace with the increased number of licensure applications. The 2023 Legislature can determine if these two positions need to be continued in future biennia. The combination of these higher licensing costs and increased legal costs are estimated to be at least \$750,000 higher than the Board's current budget. The agency had identified internal savings to offset some of these costs. The Board has sufficient revenues to cover this increase.

The Subcommittee recommends approval.