

## SB 800 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Health Care

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**Meeting Dates:** 3/31, 4/12

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Health Authority to study and make recommendations to interim committees of Legislative Assembly, no later than September 15, 2022, for legislative changes needed to increase access to health care for all Oregonians. Sunsets January 2, 2023.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impacts of COVID-19 on long term and congregate care workers
- Prevalence of lack of insurance among long term care workers
- Long term care staffing shortages
- Potential availability of federal funds
- Size and composition of long term care workforce

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 **Replaces the measure.** Establishes the Oregon Essential Workforce Health Care Program (Program) in the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to provide health care to employees of qualified facility operators participating in the state's medical assistance program. Allows OHA to provide additional medical assistance payments to eligible employers participating in Program. Establishes Oregon Essential Workforce Health Care Trust Fund and specifies funding and uses. Appropriates funds. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

*REVENUE: Revenue impact issued - see explanatory statement.*

*FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.*

#### BACKGROUND:

Long term care refers to a range of services that help people who can no longer meet their own daily needs. These services can be home-based to allow a person's ability to stay independent and safe in his/her home with the support of a homecare or personal support worker. Residential care and assisted living facilities also offer different levels of support, services, and amenities for people with long term care needs. A Kaiser Family Foundation analysis found that 14 percent of long term care health workers lack health insurance coverage.

Senate Bill 800 Oregon Essential Workforce Health Care Program to provide health care to employees of qualified facility operators participating in the state's medical assistance program