

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2022 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

Measure: HB 4003 - A

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Directs the Oregon State Board of Nursing to issue a nurse internship license to a qualified applicant.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN), Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Health Care Workforce Committee

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure will require budgetary action; however, they are presently indeterminate. - See analysis.

Analysis:

House Bill 4003 A-engrossed directs the Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN) to issue a nurse internship license to a qualified applicant that is a student in a nursing program and submits documentation specifying the applicant's qualifications, meets other OSBN licensing criteria, and pays a fee. The measure directs OSBN to allow for and encourage participation in the nurse internship licensure program; however, OSBN may revoke or suspend a nurse internship license if the nurse intern is not in good academic standing, among other reasons. OSBN must support a tax-exempt Oregon nonprofit organization that promotes the well-being of Oregon health professionals through education, coordinated regional counseling, telemedicine services and research, for which OSBN will receive an unspecified amount of General Fund in the 2021-23 biennium. The measure also directs the Health Care Workforce Committee to study, identify, and describe the challenges in addressing staffing shortages in the nursing field and submit its findings to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to health care by no later than November 15, 2022. The measure takes effect on passage, the substantive provisions of which become operative on January 1, 2023.

Oregon State Board of Nursing

The measure will have a fiscal impact on OSBN, as it directs OSBN to issue new nurse internship licenses to qualified applicants and support a tax-exempt Oregon nonprofit organization that promotes the well-being of Oregon health professionals.

Because OSBN has a mandate to protect the public in the practice of nursing, OSBN already considers an applicant's criminal history, moral character, and other considerations when making fitness determinations for professional licensure. However, because OSBN does not currently license nurse interns, OSBN will need to expand its licensing and enforcement duties to include nurse internship licensees. While it is assumed that this license will eventually be supported through Other Funds (i.e. licensing-related fee revenues), OSBN will likely need General Fund resources to implement this new licensing program. OSBN will also use General Fund to support the tax-exempt Oregon nonprofit organization, which is a new program OSBN will need to develop, since OSBN has no experience supporting nonprofit organizations.

While supporting a nonprofit organization and licensing nurse interns would increase OSBN's expenditures and workload, it is unknown how much it would cost to develop and administer these programs. It will largely depend on what kind of support OSBN will need to provide the nonprofit organization and how many nurse interns apply for licensure, both of which are unknown. For these reasons, the fiscal impact to OSBN is indeterminate.

Nevertheless, the measure warrants a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for consideration of how much General Fund OSBN will need to implement and administer these new programs.

Health Care Workforce Committee (Oregon Health Authority)

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is overseen by the Oregon Health Policy Board (OHPB), a nine-member citizen board that develops and guides implementation of health care policy. By law, OHPB established the Health Care Workforce Committee.

The measure directs the Health Care Workforce Committee to study, identify, and describe the challenges in addressing staffing shortages in the nursing field, which is part of the committee's normal workload. The measure is anticipated to have a minimal fiscal impact on the Health Care Workforce Committee and OHA.