

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 1562

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2022 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*Prepared by: Haylee Morse-Miller
Reviewed by: Tom MacDonald, Julie Neburka
Date: February 9, 2022**Measure Description:**

Authorizes Health Licensing Office to issue sign language interpreter license to qualified applicant.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Education (ODE), Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

	2021-23 Biennium	2023-25 Biennium
Other Funds	121,354	187,713
Total Funds	\$121,354	\$187,713
Positions	1	1
FTE	0.50	1.00

Analysis:

SB 1562 establishes the State Board of Sign Language Interpreters within the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Health Licensing Office (HLO). The Board may issue supervisory sign language interpreter, sign language interpreter, provisional sign language interpreter, education sign language interpreter, medical sign language interpreter, and legal sign language interpreter licenses. All licensees must meet certain requirements, may or may not work in certain settings (such as legal or medical interpretation) depending on license type, and must pay a fee established by the Health Licensing Office. Only licensed interpreters may provide signed language interpretation services. The Board is to advise HLO on a publicly available registry of licensees that includes at least the names and specific license of each licensee, and a process to receive and address grievances regarding licensees and signed language interpreting services. This measure declares an emergency and takes effect on passage, though the measure is largely operative on January 1, 2023.

HLO anticipates hiring one permanent, full-time Public Service Representative 3 (0.50 FTE in 2021-23 and 1.00 FTE in 2023-25) to support the additional work of adding the State Board of Sign Language and these licensees to the Office. HLO will have additional costs to set up the Board including legal fees, board compensation costs, and position-related Services and Supplies. Total costs are estimated at \$121,354 Other Funds in the 2021-23 biennium and \$187,713 Other Funds in the 2023-25 biennium. It is assumed the Board will be self-supporting from fees once fee levels are set, but may need to borrow existing Other Funds from HLO operating funds until licensing of sign language interpreters begins.

There is no fiscal impact for the Oregon Department of Education.

This measure warrants a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for its impact on the OHA budget.