

SB 227 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 1/23, 1/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Provides that the Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN), during an emergency declared by the Governor pursuant to ORS 401.165, may issue a limited license to a nurse who is authorized to practice in another jurisdiction. Allows OSBN to issue a limited certificate to a nursing assistant who is authorized in another jurisdiction. Directs OSBN to adopt rules and establish criteria for limited licenses and certificates. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN) issued emergency authorizations so that nurses licensed in other jurisdictions could practice in Oregon. OSBN reports that over 15,000 emergency authorizations were issued. However, OSBN does not have jurisdiction in its statutes over nurses who practice with emergency authorization. When reports of risk to the public were made to OSBN regarding nurses practicing with emergency authorization, OSBN could neither investigate nor revoke their authorization.

The proposed system of limited licenses and certificates for nurses and nursing assistants, respectively, would allow OSBN to expedite authorization while maintaining the authority to investigate when concerns are reported and to revoke the limited license or certificate.

Senate Bill 227 provides that the Oregon State Board of Nursing, upon an emergency declaration, may issue limited licenses or certificates to nurses or nursing assistants who are authorized in other jurisdictions.