

HB 2652 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes governing body of county to declare shortage of health care and human services personnel under specified circumstances. Specifies that shortage declaration expires at the end of the 90th day following date on which declaration was made. Permits county declaring shortage to apply to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) for funds to make grants for offering benefits to health and human services personnel by public and private health care and human services employers and educational institutions. Specifies benefits and personnel eligible for grant funds. Requires county receiving grant funds to annually report specified data on grant recipients to OHA. Requires OHA to report to Legislative Assembly on progress and outcomes of grant program by September 15, 2024. Appropriates \$58 million to OHA for purposes of grant program. Appropriates \$31 million to OHA for distribution to counties to partner with school districts on programs for healthy eating, physical activity, and mental health. Requires OHA to spend \$1 million to partner with local businesses, universities, and other entities to develop initiatives related to hunger, nutrition, and health. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

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

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Clarifies permissible grant fund sources. Clarifies permissible benefits grant funds may be used on. Clarifies practitioners and personnel eligible for grant funds. Clarifies applicability of program to county as employer.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 3261 (2017) requires the Oregon Health Policy Board (OHPB) to biennially assess the health care workforce needs of the state. The 2023 report found continued workforce shortages and lack of workforce diversity that exist both nationally and in Oregon and have been exasperated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The report contained recommendations in seven areas:

- Improving the diversity of health care providers
- Improving the supply and distribution of the health care workforce
- Enhancing the resiliency and well-being of the health care workforce
- Expanding training/education and career pathways
- Expanding the use of care delivery models that improve patient access and promote workforce retention
- Increasing health care systems' use of community-based health care providers
- Improving data collection to promote evidence-based strategies and diversify the health care workforce

House Bill 2652 would authorize counties to declare a shortage of health care and human services personnel and apply to the Oregon Health Authority for grant funds for worker and educator benefits to help alleviate the shortage.