

HB 2485 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: 2/6, 3/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Portland State University (PSU), subject to sufficient appropriation by the Legislative Assembly, to enhance state's capacity to educate public mental health and addiction treatment providers by July 1, 2028, by materially increasing number of graduates from social work and certified drug and alcohol counselor programs. Requires PSU to increase scholarships, increase faculty and staff, and award stipends in efforts to increase number of program graduates. Appropriates \$2,783,000 to Higher Education Coordinating Commission for allocation to PSU. Declares emergency, effective on July 1, 2023.

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

REVENUE: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current capacity limitations for social work and certified drug and alcohol counselor programs
- Potential expansion of PSU social work program to other universities
- Financial challenges faced by social work students

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to the 2021 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), Oregon ranked second and fifth in percentage of the population with substance use and alcohol use disorders respectively. From September 2021 to September 2022, the Oregon Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission (ADPC) conducted an inventory and gap analysis of the state's substance use disorder treatment system. That inventory and analysis found that Oregon found a 93 percent gap between the state's actual and needed qualified mental health professional workforce (clinical social workers, licensed professional counselors, marriage and family therapists, and psychologists), as well as a 41 percent gap for the number of certified alcohol and drug counselors.

House Bill 2485 would appropriate \$2,783,000 to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for appropriation to Portland State University to increase the number of graduates from social work and certified drug and alcohol counselor programs.