

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 1076 - 1

82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2023 Regular Session

Legislative Fiscal Office

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

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Measure Description:

Establishes task force on hospital discharge policies.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Health Authority, Legislative Assembly, Legislative Policy and Research Office, Task Force/Committee/Workgroup

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

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

Analysis:

SB 1076 - 1 creates the 17-member task force on hospital discharge policies which is to develop recommendations for hospital discharges of patients who are homeless. The task force is to be appointed and begin meeting by September 30, 2023. The task force is to report to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to health no later than September 15, 2024. The bill directs the Legislative Policy and Research Office to provide staff support for the task force, and the task force sunsets on December 31, 2025. The measure takes effect January 1, 2024, which seemingly conflicts with the directive that the task force form by September 30, 2023. This fiscal impact statement assumes that the task force assembles September 30, 2023, and that minimal or no work is done by the task force after a report is completed in September 2024.

Non-legislative members of the task force with incomes below 400 percent of the federal poverty guideline are entitled to compensation as provided in ORS 292.495. Legislative members of the task force are entitled to a per diem as provided in ORS 171.072 (4).

This measure warrants a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for consideration of possible impacts on the state's General Fund.

Legislative Policy and Research Office

The bill requires the Legislative Policy and Research Office (LPRO) to provide staff support to the task force. LPRO assumes a minimal fiscal impact with existing staff to provide support to this Task Force. Assuming monthly meetings over 12 months, this will require one Senior Legislative Analyst assigned part-time to the task force (0.31 FTE), one Research Analyst assigned with one-third of their time to the task force (0.21 FTE), and one Committee Assistant assigned with one-third of their time to the task force (0.21 FTE), at a total cost of \$264,132 using existing General Fund resources. This estimate assumes that the work of the task force is completed shortly after reporting to the Legislature is done, and the task force does not extend into the 2025-27 biennium. This also assumes that four non-legislative members of the task force will be eligible for compensation, which is estimated to total \$5,700 over the 12 months the task force meets.

Although LPRO's current service level budget supports interim committees and task forces, if the work required by this task force, or if the cumulative enactment of other legislation with interim committees and task forces exceeds expenditure levels beyond those assumed in the 2023-25 budget, additional General Fund resources may be required.

Legislative Assembly

The bill is expected to have a minimal impact on the Legislative Assembly. Four members of the task force will be legislative members who are entitled to per diem and travel reimbursement. Meetings are set by the chairperson and it is unknown how often the task force would meet. However, assuming that the task force meets nine times from the effective date of the measure until the report is due September 15, 2024, the estimated per diem and travel reimbursement costs will total \$10,100. If the task force continues meeting after the report is completed, since the task force does not sunset until 2025, there will be additional costs incurred. However, the work of the task force following completion of reporting requirements is unclear.

The amount above includes the Federal Insurance Contribution Act (FICA) tax, assumes the per diem remains at \$157 per day, and estimates an average mileage of 171 miles at the current rate of \$0.655 per mile. This estimate could change based on the number of meetings held. The task force would not incur additional costs to the Legislative Assembly budget if the meetings are held at the Capitol building during the Legislative Session, or Task Force or Legislative Days.

Although the 2023-25 Legislative Assembly budget contains funds allocated for interim committees and task forces, if the work required by this task force, or if the cumulative enactment of other legislation with interim committees and task forces exceeds expenditure levels beyond those assumed in the 2023-25 budget, additional General Fund resources may be required.

Oregon Health Authority

There is no fiscal impact for Oregon Health Authority.