

HB 2977 -5 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Prepared By: Brian Nieubuurt, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/1, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), in collaboration with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), to establish grant program for distributing moneys to institutions of higher education to develop programs to prepare students to enter behavioral health workforce. Appropriates \$1,000,000 General Fund to HECC for higher education grant program. Requires HECC, in consultation with the State Workforce and Talent Development Board and OHA, to establish grant program for local workforce development boards that provide workforce programs and promote workforce development activities in the field of behavioral health. Appropriates \$5,000,000 General Fund to HECC for workforce development grant program. Requires OHA to collect and report geographic and other specified data on grant recipients. Establishes oversight council in OHA to assist in identifying and eliminating systemic barriers that influence the funding, allocation of funding, and policy choices with respect to the behavioral health workforce. Repeals oversight council on July 1, 2025.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Behavioral health workforce shortages and impacts
- Tracking impacts of grants

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-5 **Replaces the measure.** Requires Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to establish grant program for purpose of distributing moneys to institutions of higher education, and organizations that administer training programs, to develop training and instructional programs that prepare students to enter behavioral health workforce. Specifies allowable uses of grant moneys. Requires OHA to adopt rules establishing grant criteria. Requires OHA to distribute grant funds by July 1, 2024. Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) in consultation with the State Workforce and Talent Development Board, to establish behavioral health workforce development program purpose of promoting workforce development in behavioral health field. Directs local workforce development boards to administer program and specifies responsibilities. Requires HECC to distribute workforce development funds no later than 120 days after effective date and specifies distribution formula. Appropriates \$5 million General Fund to both OHA and HECC for grant and workforce development programs. Requires OHA and HECC to annually report by September 1 on progress and outcomes of grant and workforce development programs. Requires reports to include anonymous and aggregated list of students and providers who received assistance categorized by age, ethnicity, gender, race, disability, language spoken, sexual orientation, and county of residence. Establishes oversight council to assist OHA in identifying and eliminating systemic barriers that influence behavioral health workforce funding and policy choices. Specifies oversight council membership. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

REVENUE: No revenue impact

BACKGROUND:

In 2021, the Oregon Legislature invested \$1.35 billion in the state's behavioral health system to improve the state's behavioral health crisis system, support the implementation of Measure 110 (2020), increase access to

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residential treatment, and support behavioral health workforce recruitment and retention. That same year, the Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 2949, directing the Oregon Health Authority to provide incentives to increase the recruitment and retention of culturally responsive behavioral health workforce. In 2022, House Bill 4071 updated the description of individuals eligible for these incentives.

House Bill 2977 would require the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to establish grant programs for higher education institutions and workforce development boards to help develop the state's behavioral health workforce.