

SB 227 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 4/26, 5/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

During Governor-declared emergency, allows Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN) to issue limited license to practice nursing and limited certificate as nursing assistant to individuals authorized to practice in another jurisdiction. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

SENATE VOTE: Aye, 28; Nay, 1; Excused, 1

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Number of emergency licenses granted during COVID-19 pandemic and lack of OSBN authority to regulate emergency licensees
- Current backlog of applications for nursing licensure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 Extends renewal period for which nonresident nurses licensing in another state may practice on single, temporary assignment from 30 to 90 days. Clarifies requirement that previously licensed nurse apply for license reactivation when employed in specified settings on single, temporary assignment.

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN) regulates the practice of nursing in the state, including licensing or certifying registered nurses (RN), licensed practical nurses (LPN), clinical nurse specialists (APRN-CNS), certified registered nurse anesthetists (APRN-CRNA), nurse practitioners (APRN-NP), certified nursing assistants (CNA), and certified medication aides (CMA). When Governor Brown issued Executive Order 20-03 in March 2020, declaring an emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, licensing boards were given flexibility around health professional licensing to facilitate bolstering the state's health care workforce. OSBN indicates that it issued approximately 10,000 emergency authorizations to nurses and nursing assistants from other states between 2020 and 2022.

Senate Bill 227 would allow the Oregon State Board of Nursing to issue limited licenses and certificates for nurses and nursing assistants during a Governor-declared emergency.