

SB 704 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 03/22/23

Action: Do pass with amendments. Refer to Rules then to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 5-0-1-0

Yeas: 5 - Bonham, Campos, Hayden, Patterson, President Wagner

Exc: 1 - Gorsek

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/13, 2/15, 3/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Universal Health Plan Governance Board (Board) within the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS). Specifies that the Board will have nine seats with members to be appointed by the Governor to represent a variety of health care professions and community perspectives. Provides four-year terms for Board members who will elect among themselves a chair and vice-chair. Directs the Board to appoint an executive director who shall hire staff and consultants to provide administrative support and policy analysis. Directs the Board to design an administrative structure for the Universal Health Plan, to assess the readiness of public institutions and infrastructure to carry out the plan, and to work collaboratively with partners across the health care system, including hospitals, health care providers, insurers, and coordinated care organizations. Requires the Board to develop a plan to establish an independent public corporation and a trust fund separate from the general fund. Directs the Governance Board to evaluate how to work with the nine federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon regarding health care and health insurance. Removes requirement that Governance Board must consider, among disparities in health outcomes due to the lack of access to care, the termination of pregnancy. Directs the Board to make reports to Legislative Assembly on December 1 each year, beginning in 2024, and to present to the Legislative Assembly and the Governor, by September 15, 2026, a comprehensive plan for the implementation of the Universal Health Plan.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Representation of health care professionals and others on Governance Board
- Relationship between Governance Board and Oregon Health Policy Board

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 770 (2019) created the Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care (Task Force), charging it with making recommendations for system of state-based universal health care. Oregon's current health care system has multiple public and private funding streams. People in Oregon are enrolled in a wide range of insurance plans with varying levels of coverage and disparate provider networks. Concerns about the existing health care system were identified by the Task Force in its process of public engagement with different Oregon communities and industry groups ([link](#) to Task Force public engagement reports).

In its report to the Legislative Assembly, the Task Force offered a blueprint for a system of state-based universal care ([link](#) to Final Report). All people who live in Oregon would qualify no matter their job, income, immigration status, or tribal membership. Benefits would be based on those that public employees have now. Instead of

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paying deductibles, co-pays, or premiums, individuals, households, and employers would pay new taxes based on their income and payroll wages. The Task Force engaged an actuarial consultant to estimate costs and revenues needed to fund the plan ([link](#) to actuarial analysis). In its Final Report, the Task Force recommended that a governing board be established to develop plans to implement a system of state-based universal care in Oregon.

Senate Bill 704 A establishes the Universal Health Plan Governance Board within the Department of Consumer and Business Services and directs it to present to the Legislative Assembly and the Governor, no later than September 15, 2026, a comprehensive plan for implementation of a Universal Health Plan.