

House Bill 2176

Sponsored by Representative MANNIX (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Directs Oregon Health Authority to study and evaluate need for and feasibility of expanding, reconstructing, renovating or otherwise improving space, bed capacity and facilities of state hospitals or of other state facilities that are or could be used for care and treatment of persons with mental illness, with aim of increasing patient capacity by 200 percent at each location.

Directs authority to determine how many employees are necessary to provide adequate care and treatment to current patient populations at state hospitals and how many employees would be needed to provide adequate care and treatment for expanded patient population.

Directs authority to evaluate feasibility of establishing reserve of qualified mental health professionals to augment existing staff at state hospitals, with focus on feasibility of employing retired mental health professionals or mental health professionals from outside this state.

Requires reports to Legislative Assembly.

Sunset on January 1, 2025.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to expanding capacities at state hospitals; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. The Oregon Health Authority shall:

(1) Study and evaluate the need for and feasibility of expanding, reconstructing, renovating or otherwise improving the space, bed capacity and facilities of the state hospitals identified in ORS 426.010 or expanding, reconstructing, renovating or otherwise improving other state facilities that are or could be used for the care and treatment of persons with mental illness. In the study and evaluation, the authority shall determine the feasibility of expanding patient capacity by at least 200 percent at each location.

(2) Determine:

(a) How many employees are necessary to provide adequate care and treatment and related support and services to the current patient populations at the state hospitals identified in ORS 426.010, and how many positions are currently unfilled; and

(b) How many employees would be necessary to provide adequate care and treatment and related support and services for the number of patients that would be housed at facilities with the expanded capacities described in subsection (1) of this section.

(3) Evaluate the feasibility of establishing a reserve of qualified mental health professionals whom the state hospitals may employ part-time, full-time or on an as-needed basis to augment existing staff members in providing adequate care and treatment to existing patients at the state hospitals. In evaluating the feasibility of establishing the reserve, the authority shall determine whether and to what extent employing retired mental health professionals and recruiting mental health professionals from outside this state are feasible.

(4) Report to the Legislative Assembly in the manner provided by ORS 192.245:

(a) Concerning the progress of the authority's study and evaluation, within 30 days after

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 the effective date of this 2023 Act and within every successive 30 days until the authority
2 completes the study and evaluation;

3 (b) Concerning the determinations the authority makes under subsection (2)(a) of this
4 section, within 60 days after the effective date of this 2023 Act;

5 (c) Concerning the determinations the authority makes under subsection (2)(b) of this
6 section, within one year after the effective date of this 2023 Act; and

7 (d) The authority's complete findings and evaluations under subsections (1) and (3) of this
8 section not later than December 31, 2024.

9 SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2023 Act is repealed on January 1, 2025.

10 SECTION 3. This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
11 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect
12 on its passage.
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