

Senate Bill 539

Sponsored by Senator SOLLMAN; Senators CAMPOS, GELSER BLOUIN, MANNING JR, Representative MCLAIN
(Presession 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**.

Requires Oregon Health Authority to conduct study and develop recommendations for classification system for traumatic brain injuries and training for first responders and law enforcement in identifying symptoms of traumatic brain injuries, acquired brain injuries and post-traumatic stress syndrome and training on appropriate referrals for services and treatment.

Sunset January 2, 2025.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to trauma-induced injuries.

3 Whereas individuals with traumatic brain injuries often face many challenges due to their inju-
4 ries, especially with respect to accessing health care, finding employment and participating in ev-
5 eryday life; and

6 Whereas most survivors of traumatic brain injuries lack access to high quality and affordable
7 health care and face barriers to accessing rehabilitation services; and

8 Whereas individuals with traumatic brain injuries, acquired brain injuries or post-traumatic
9 stress syndrome may have symptoms from their injuries that make it difficult for them to understand
10 and follow directions or communicate clearly with first responders, which may result in first
11 responders' failing to route the individuals for proper care; and

12 Whereas law enforcement officers sometimes confuse symptoms of brain injuries for erratic be-
13 havior or may assume an individual is intoxicated from drugs or alcohol, which can lead to the
14 individual's arrest, during which no medical aid is offered and the injuries may worsen; and

15 Whereas an established and recognized classification system for traumatic brain injuries and
16 properly trained and situationally aware first responders and law enforcement officers may lower
17 incarceration rates of individuals with traumatic brain injuries and provide the individuals with a
18 path to a health care network where they can receive appropriate services; now, therefore,

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

20 **SECTION 1. (1) The Oregon Health Authority shall conduct a study and develop recom-**
21 **mendations for:**

22 **(a) A classification system for traumatic brain injuries that could be used to evaluate**
23 **eligibility for disability benefits and for insurance coverage of treatment for traumatic brain**
24 **injuries; and**

25 **(b) Training for first responders and law enforcement officers in identifying symptoms**
26 **of traumatic brain injuries, acquired brain injuries and post-traumatic stress syndrome and**
27 **training on appropriate referrals for services and treatment.**

28 **(2) No later than September 15, 2024, the authority shall report, in the manner provided**
29 **in ORS 192.245, to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health the**

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 results of the study and recommendations, including recommendations for legislative
2 changes if needed.

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

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