

Senate Bill 704

Sponsored by Senator MANNING JR, Representative NELSON, Senators PROZANSKI, DEMBROW, PATTERSON, Representative BYNUM; Representatives CHAICHI, GAMBA, HUDSON, LIVELY, PHAM K, REYNOLDS, TRAN (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**.

Establishes Universal Health Plan Governance Board and directs board to create comprehensive plan for implementing Universal Health Plan beginning in 2027.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to universal health care; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. (1) The Universal Health Plan Governance Board is established in the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, consisting of nine members appointed by the Governor who represent a variety of health care professionals and community perspectives, including individuals with experience:

(a) As enrollees in the state medical assistance program and Medicare; and

(b) Being uninsured for health care.

(2) Of the membership of the board:

(a) Five members must have expertise in health care delivery, health care finance, health care operations or public administration; and

(b) Four members must be focused on public engagement.

(3) The term of office of each member of the board is four years, but a member serves at the pleasure of the Governor. Before the expiration of the term of a member, the Governor shall appoint a successor whose term begins on January 2 next following. A member is eligible for reappointment. If there is a vacancy for any cause, the Governor shall make an appointment to become immediately effective for the unexpired term.

(4) The appointment of each member of the board is subject to confirmation by the Senate in the manner prescribed in ORS 171.562 and 171.565.

(5) A member of the board:

(a) Shall be paid as a full-time employee in accordance with a salary plan adopted by the Personnel Division of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services under ORS 240.240 (2);

(b) Is an eligible employee as defined in ORS 243.105; and

(c) Is eligible to become a member of the Public Employees Retirement System.

(6) The board shall select one of its members as chairperson and another as vice chairperson, for terms and with duties and powers necessary for the performance of the functions of the offices as the board determines.

(7) A majority of the members of the board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of

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 **business.**

2 (8) The board shall meet at a time and place determined by the board. The board also
3 may meet at other times and places specified by the call of the chairperson or of a majority
4 of the members of the board.

5 (9) In accordance with applicable provisions of ORS chapter 183, the board may adopt
6 rules necessary for the administration of the laws that the board is charged with adminis-
7 tering.

8 (10)(a) The board may establish any advisory or technical committees the board considers
9 necessary to aid and advise the board in the performance of its functions. The committees
10 may be continuing or temporary committees. The board shall determine the representation,
11 membership, terms and organization of the committees and shall appoint the members of the
12 committees.

13 (b) Members of the committees are not entitled to compensation but, in the discretion
14 of the board, may be reimbursed from funds available to the board for actual and necessary
15 travel and other expenses incurred by the members in the performance of official duties in
16 the manner and amount provided in ORS 292.495.

17 (11)(a) The board shall appoint an executive director to serve at the pleasure of the
18 board, to be responsible for the administrative operations of the board and to perform such
19 other duties as may be designated or assigned to the executive director from time to time
20 by the board. The board shall fix the compensation of the executive director in accordance
21 with ORS chapter 240.

22 (b) Subject to any applicable provisions of ORS chapter 240, the executive director shall
23 appoint all employees of the board, prescribe their duties and fix their compensation.

24 **SECTION 2.** (1) The Universal Health Plan Governance Board established in section 1 of
25 this 2023 Act shall create a comprehensive plan for:

26 (a) Establishing a single-payer Universal Health Plan; and

27 (b) Overseeing the implementation and administration of the plan, including but not
28 limited to designing benefit packages, processing claims and building reserves to finance the
29 plan.

30 (2) In creating the plan, the board shall:

31 (a) Assess the readiness of key health care and public institutions to carry out the plan
32 and collaborate with state agencies including the Department of Consumer and Business
33 Services and the Department of Human Services, to determine how the agencies' existing
34 systems will integrate with the Universal Health Plan;

35 (b) Identify existing statutory authorities and information technology infrastructure
36 needed for overall plan operations;

37 (c) Evaluate how to work with existing boards, commissions and councils concerned with
38 health care and health insurance;

39 (d) Work collaboratively with partners across the health care system, including hospitals,
40 health care providers, insurers and coordinated care organizations, to unwind the existing
41 health care financing system;

42 (e) Partner with regional entities to determine rates of reimbursement and identify in-
43 novative strategies to reduce the complexities and administrative burdens on participants in
44 the health care workforce and to otherwise address workforce challenges;

45 (f) Study and address the impacts of the Universal Health Plan with respect to specific

1 types of employers;

2 (g) Design the administrative structure for the Universal Health Plan; and

3 (h) Engage with the Governor’s office, the Oregon Health Authority and federal author-
4 ities to secure necessary federal waivers or other options to secure federal and state funding.

5 (3) No later than September 15, 2025, the board shall present to the interim committees
6 of the Legislative Assembly related to health, in the manner provided in ORS 192.245, and to
7 the Governor, a comprehensive plan for the implementation of the Universal Health Plan
8 beginning in 2027.

9 SECTION 3. (1) The Universal Health Plan Trust Fund is established in the State Treas-
10 ury, separate and distinct from the General Fund, consisting of moneys from all sources,
11 public and private, that are allocated to or deposited to the Universal Health Plan Trust Fund
12 for the purpose of financing the planning for and the administration and operation of the
13 Universal Health Plan by the Universal Health Plan Governance Board. Interest earned on
14 the Universal Health Plan Trust Fund shall be credited to the fund.

15 (2) Moneys in the Universal Health Plan Trust Fund are continuously appropriated to the
16 board for carrying out the Universal Health Plan.

17 SECTION 4. (1) Notwithstanding the term of office specified by section 1 of this 2023 Act,
18 of the members first appointed to the Universal Health Plan Governance Board:

19 (a) Two shall serve for terms ending January 2, 2025.

20 (b) Two shall serve for terms ending January 2, 2026.

21 (c) Two shall serve for terms ending January 2, 2027.

22 (d) Three shall serve for terms ending January 2, 2028.

23 (2) Notwithstanding section 1 (11) of this 2023 Act, the Governor shall appoint an execu-
24 tive director of the board and fix the compensation of the executive director in accordance
25 with ORS chapter 240 without undue delay after the effective date of this 2023 Act who shall
26 serve at the pleasure of the Governor until the full board has been appointed by the Gover-
27 nor and confirmed by the Senate.

28 SECTION 5. The comprehensive plan created by the Universal Health Plan Governance
29 Board under section 2 of this 2023 Act must implement a single-payer Universal Health Plan
30 that is in keeping with the findings and recommendations of the Joint Task Force on Uni-
31 versal Health Care in the report approved by the task force on September 29, 2022.

32 SECTION 6. Sections 4 and 5 of this 2023 Act are repealed on January 2, 2028.

33 SECTION 7. This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
34 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect
35 on its passage.

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