# Senate Bill 717

Sponsored by Senator GIROD (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 that decisions related to immunizations are personal health care decisions and that immunizations may not be mandated as condition of employment for registered nurses or other medical staff unless required by federal law.

Makes violation unlawful employment practice.

#### A BILL FOR AN ACT

2 Relating to mandatory immunizations for certain health care employees; creating new provisions;

and amending ORS 659A.885.

1

18

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

5 <u>SECTION 1.</u> (1) It is the policy of the State of Oregon that decisions related to immu-

6 nizations are personal health care decisions and that immunizations may not be mandated

by an employer who employs registered nurses or other medical staff as a condition of employment unless required by federal law.

9 (2) It is an unlawful employment practice for an employer to require an applicant for 10 employment as a registered nurse or other medical staff or an employee who is employed as 11 a registered nurse or other medical staff to be immunized as a condition of future or con-12 tinuing employment, unless the immunization is mandated by federal law.

(3) An applicant for employment or an employee who alleges a violation of this section
 may file a complaint under ORS 659A.820.

15 (4) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Medical staff" includes those individuals licensed in this state under ORS chapter
 677.

(b) "Registered nurse" means a nurse licensed under ORS 678.050.

<u>SECTION 2.</u> ORS 659A.885, as amended by section 7, chapter 99, Oregon Laws 2022, is amended
 to read:

21659A.885. (1) Any person claiming to be aggrieved by an unlawful practice specified in subsection (2) of this section may file a civil action in circuit court. In any action under this subsection, 22 23 the court may order injunctive relief and any other equitable relief that may be appropriate, in-24cluding but not limited to reinstatement or the hiring of employees with or without back pay. A 25 court may order back pay in an action under this subsection only for the two-year period imme-26 diately preceding the filing of a complaint under ORS 659A.820 with the Commissioner of the Bureau 27 of Labor and Industries, or if a complaint was not filed before the action was commenced, the two-28year period immediately preceding the filing of the action. In any action under this subsection, the 29 court may allow the prevailing party costs and reasonable attorney fees at trial and on appeal. Ex-30 cept as provided in subsection (3) of this section:

#### SB 717

(a) The judge shall determine the facts in an action under this subsection; and 1 2 (b) Upon any appeal of a judgment in an action under this subsection, the appellate court shall review the judgment pursuant to the standard established by ORS 19.415 (3). 3 (2) An action may be brought under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of: 4 (a) ORS 10.090, 10.092, 25.337, 25.424, 171.120, 243.323, 408.230, 408.237 (2), 475C.285, 476.574, 5 652.020, 652.220, 652.355, 653.060, 653.263, 653.265, 653.547, 653.549, 653.601 to 653.661, 659.852. 6 659A.030, 659A.040, 659A.043, 659A.046, 659A.063, 659A.069, 659A.082, 659A.088, 659A.103 to 7 659A.145, 659A.147, 659A.150 to 659A.186, 659A.194, 659A.199, 659A.203, 659A.218, 659A.228, 8 9 659A.230, 659A.233, 659A.236, 659A.250 to 659A.262, 659A.277, 659A.290, 659A.300, 659A.306, 659A.309, 659A.315, 659A.318, 659A.320, 659A.343, 659A.355, 659A.370 or 659A.421 or section 5, 10 chapter 99, Oregon Laws 2022 or section 1 of this 2023 Act; or 11 12 (b) ORS 653.470, except an action may not be brought for a claim relating to ORS 653.450. 13 (3) In any action under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 25.337, 25.424, 243.323, 652.220, 652.355, 653.547, 653.549, 659.852, 659A.030, 659A.040, 659A.043, 659A.046, 659A.069, 14 15 659A.082, 659A.103 to 659A.145, 659A.199, 659A.203, 659A.228, 659A.230, 659A.250 to 659A.262, 16 659A.290, 659A.318, 659A.343, 659A.355, 659A.370 or 659A.421: 17 (a) The court may award, in addition to the relief authorized under subsection (1) of this section, 18 compensatory damages or \$200, whichever is greater, and punitive damages; 19 (b) At the request of any party, the action shall be tried to a jury; 20(c) Upon appeal of any judgment finding a violation, the appellate court shall review the judgment pursuant to the standard established by ORS 19.415 (1); and 2122(d) Any attorney fee agreement shall be subject to approval by the court. 23(4) Notwithstanding ORS 31.730, in an action under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 652.220, the court may award punitive damages if: 24 (a) It is proved by clear and convincing evidence that an employer has engaged in fraud, acted 25with malice or acted with willful and wanton misconduct; or 2627(b) An employer was previously adjudicated in a proceeding under this section or under ORS 659A.850 for a violation of ORS 652.220. 28 (5) In any action under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 653.060 or 2930 659A.147, the court may award, in addition to the relief authorized under subsection (1) of this sec-31 tion, compensatory damages or \$200, whichever is greater. (6) In any action under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 171.120, 476.574 32or 659A.218, the court may award, in addition to the relief authorized under subsection (1) of this 33 34 section, compensatory damages or \$250, whichever is greater. 35(7) In any action under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 10.090 or 10.092, the court may award, in addition to the relief authorized under subsection (1) of this section, a civil 36 37 penalty in the amount of \$720. 38 (8) Any individual against whom any distinction, discrimination or restriction on account of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, marital status or age, 39 if the individual is 18 years of age or older, has been made by any place of public accommodation, 40 as defined in ORS 659A.400, by any employee or person acting on behalf of the place or by any 41 person aiding or abetting the place or person in violation of ORS 659A.406 may bring an action 42against the operator or manager of the place, the employee or person acting on behalf of the place 43

44 or the aider or abettor of the place or person. Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, in an 45 action under this subsection:

[2]

1 (a) The court may award, in addition to the relief authorized under subsection (1) of this section, 2 compensatory and punitive damages;

3 (b) The operator or manager of the place of public accommodation, the employee or person
4 acting on behalf of the place, and any aider or abettor shall be jointly and severally liable for all
5 damages awarded in the action;

6 7

(c) At the request of any party, the action shall be tried to a jury;

(d) The court shall award reasonable attorney fees to a prevailing plaintiff;

8 (e) The court may award reasonable attorney fees and expert witness fees incurred by a de-9 fendant who prevails only if the court determines that the plaintiff had no objectively reasonable 10 basis for asserting a claim or no reasonable basis for appealing an adverse decision of a trial court; 11 and

12 (f) Upon any appeal of a judgment under this subsection, the appellate court shall review the 13 judgment pursuant to the standard established by ORS 19.415 (1).

(9) When the commissioner or the Attorney General has reasonable cause to believe that a 14 15 person or group of persons is engaged in a pattern or practice of resistance to the rights protected by ORS 659A.145 or 659A.421 or federal housing law, or that a group of persons has been denied 16 any of the rights protected by ORS 659A.145 or 659A.421 or federal housing law, the commissioner 17 18 or the Attorney General may file a civil action on behalf of the aggrieved persons in the same 19 manner as a person or group of persons may file a civil action under this section. In a civil action 20filed under this subsection, the court may assess against the respondent, in addition to the relief authorized under subsections (1) and (3) of this section, a civil penalty: 21

22

(a) In an amount not exceeding \$50,000 for a first violation; and

23

(b) In an amount not exceeding \$100,000 for any subsequent violation.

(10) In any action under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 659A.145 or 659A.421 or alleging discrimination under federal housing law, when the commissioner is pursuing the action on behalf of an aggrieved complainant, the court shall award reasonable attorney fees to the commissioner if the commissioner prevails in the action. The court may award reasonable attorney fees and expert witness fees incurred by a defendant that prevails in the action if the court determines that the commissioner had no objectively reasonable basis for asserting the claim or for appealing an adverse decision of the trial court.

(11) In an action under subsection (1) or (9) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 659A.145
 or 659A.421 or discrimination under federal housing law:

33 (a) "Aggrieved person" includes a person who believes that the person:

34 (A) Has been injured by an unlawful practice or discriminatory housing practice; or

35 (B) Will be injured by an unlawful practice or discriminatory housing practice that is about to 36 occur.

(b) An aggrieved person in regard to issues to be determined in an action may intervene as of right in the action. The Attorney General may intervene in the action if the Attorney General certifies that the case is of general public importance. The court may allow an intervenor prevailing party costs and reasonable attorney fees at trial and on appeal.

<u>SECTION 3.</u> ORS 659A.885, as amended by section 10, chapter 197, Oregon Laws 2017, section
6, chapter 139, Oregon Laws 2019, section 8, chapter 343, Oregon Laws 2019, section 8, chapter 463,
Oregon Laws 2019, section 13, chapter 701, Oregon Laws 2019, section 45, chapter 367, Oregon Laws
2021, and section 8, chapter 99, Oregon Laws 2022, is amended to read:

45 659A.885. (1) Any person claiming to be aggrieved by an unlawful practice specified in sub-

## SB 717

section (2) of this section may file a civil action in circuit court. In any action under this subsection, 1 the court may order injunctive relief and any other equitable relief that may be appropriate, in-2 cluding but not limited to reinstatement or the hiring of employees with or without back pay. A 3 court may order back pay in an action under this subsection only for the two-year period imme-4 diately preceding the filing of a complaint under ORS 659A.820 with the Commissioner of the Bureau 5 of Labor and Industries, or if a complaint was not filed before the action was commenced, the two-6 year period immediately preceding the filing of the action. In any action under this subsection, the 7 court may allow the prevailing party costs and reasonable attorney fees at trial and on appeal. Ex-8 9 cept as provided in subsection (3) of this section:

10

(a) The judge shall determine the facts in an action under this subsection; and

(b) Upon any appeal of a judgment in an action under this subsection, the appellate court shall 11 12 review the judgment pursuant to the standard established by ORS 19.415 (3).

13

(2) An action may be brought under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of:

(a) ORS 10.090, 10.092, 25.337, 25.424, 171.120, 243.323, 408.230, 408.237 (2), 475C.285, 476.574, 14 15 652.020, 652.220, 652.355, 653.060, 653.263, 653.265, 653.547, 653.549, 653.601 to 653.661, 659.852, 16 659A.030, 659A.040, 659A.043, 659A.046, 659A.063, 659A.069, 659A.082, 659A.088, 659A.103 to 659A.145, 659A.147, 659A.150 to 659A.186, 659A.194, 659A.199, 659A.203, 659A.218, 659A.228, 17 18 659A.230, 659A.233, 659A.236, 659A.250 to 659A.262, 659A.277, 659A.290, 659A.300, 659A.306, 19 659A.309, 659A.315, 659A.318, 659A.320, 659A.343, 659A.355, 659A.357, 659A.370 or 659A.421 or sec-20tion 5, chapter 99, Oregon Laws 2022 or section 1 of this 2023 Act; or

21

(b) ORS 653.470, except an action may not be brought for a claim relating to ORS 653.450.

22(3) In any action under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 25.337, 25.424, 23243.323, 652.220, 652.355, 653.547, 653.549, 659.852, 659A.030, 659A.040, 659A.043, 659A.046, 659A.069, 659A.082, 659A.103 to 659A.145, 659A.199, 659A.203, 659A.228, 659A.230, 659A.250 to 659A.262, 24 25659A.290, 659A.318, 659A.343, 659A.355, 659A.357, 659A.370 or 659A.421:

(a) The court may award, in addition to the relief authorized under subsection (1) of this section, 2627compensatory damages or \$200, whichever is greater, and punitive damages;

(b) At the request of any party, the action shall be tried to a jury; 28

(c) Upon appeal of any judgment finding a violation, the appellate court shall review the judg-2930 ment pursuant to the standard established by ORS 19.415 (1); and

31 (d) Any attorney fee agreement shall be subject to approval by the court.

(4) Notwithstanding ORS 31.730, in an action under subsection (1) of this section alleging a vi-32olation of ORS 652.220, the court may award punitive damages if: 33

34 (a) It is proved by clear and convincing evidence that an employer has engaged in fraud, acted with malice or acted with willful and wanton misconduct; or 35

(b) An employer was previously adjudicated in a proceeding under this section or under ORS 36 37 659A.850 for a violation of ORS 652.220.

38 (5) In any action under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 653.060 or 659A.147, the court may award, in addition to the relief authorized under subsection (1) of this sec-39 tion, compensatory damages or \$200, whichever is greater. 40

(6) In any action under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 171.120, 476.574 41 or 659A.218, the court may award, in addition to the relief authorized under subsection (1) of this 42 section, compensatory damages or \$250, whichever is greater. 43

(7) In any action under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 10.090 or 10.092, 44 the court may award, in addition to the relief authorized under subsection (1) of this section, a civil 45

1 penalty in the amount of \$720.

2 (8) Any individual against whom any distinction, discrimination or restriction on account of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, marital status or age, 3 if the individual is 18 years of age or older, has been made by any place of public accommodation, 4 as defined in ORS 659A.400, by any employee or person acting on behalf of the place or by any 5 person aiding or abetting the place or person in violation of ORS 659A.406 may bring an action 6 against the operator or manager of the place, the employee or person acting on behalf of the place 7 or the aider or abettor of the place or person. Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, in an 8 9 action under this subsection:

(a) The court may award, in addition to the relief authorized under subsection (1) of this section,
 compensatory and punitive damages;

(b) The operator or manager of the place of public accommodation, the employee or person
acting on behalf of the place, and any aider or abettor shall be jointly and severally liable for all
damages awarded in the action;

15 (c) At the request of any party, the action shall be tried to a jury;

16 (d) The court shall award reasonable attorney fees to a prevailing plaintiff;

(e) The court may award reasonable attorney fees and expert witness fees incurred by a defendant who prevails only if the court determines that the plaintiff had no objectively reasonable basis for asserting a claim or no reasonable basis for appealing an adverse decision of a trial court; and

(f) Upon any appeal of a judgment under this subsection, the appellate court shall review the
 judgment pursuant to the standard established by ORS 19.415 (1).

23(9) When the commissioner or the Attorney General has reasonable cause to believe that a person or group of persons is engaged in a pattern or practice of resistance to the rights protected 24 by ORS 659A.145 or 659A.421 or federal housing law, or that a group of persons has been denied 25any of the rights protected by ORS 659A.145 or 659A.421 or federal housing law, the commissioner 2627or the Attorney General may file a civil action on behalf of the aggrieved persons in the same manner as a person or group of persons may file a civil action under this section. In a civil action 28filed under this subsection, the court may assess against the respondent, in addition to the relief 2930 authorized under subsections (1) and (3) of this section, a civil penalty:

31 32

43

(a) In an amount not exceeding \$50,000 for a first violation; and

(b) In an amount not exceeding \$100,000 for any subsequent violation.

(10) In any action under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 659A.145 or 659A.421 or alleging discrimination under federal housing law, when the commissioner is pursuing the action on behalf of an aggrieved complainant, the court shall award reasonable attorney fees to the commissioner if the commissioner prevails in the action. The court may award reasonable attorney fees and expert witness fees incurred by a defendant that prevails in the action if the court determines that the commissioner had no objectively reasonable basis for asserting the claim or for appealing an adverse decision of the trial court.

40 (11) In an action under subsection (1) or (9) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 659A.145
41 or 659A.421 or discrimination under federal housing law:

42 (a) "Aggrieved person" includes a person who believes that the person:

(A) Has been injured by an unlawful practice or discriminatory housing practice; or

44 (B) Will be injured by an unlawful practice or discriminatory housing practice that is about to 45 occur.

## SB 717

1 (b) An aggrieved person in regard to issues to be determined in an action may intervene as of 2 right in the action. The Attorney General may intervene in the action if the Attorney General cer-3 tifies that the case is of general public importance. The court may allow an intervenor prevailing 4 party costs and reasonable attorney fees at trial and on appeal.

5 **SECTION 4.** ORS 659A.885, as amended by section 10, chapter 197, Oregon Laws 2017, section 6 6, chapter 139, Oregon Laws 2019, section 8, chapter 343, Oregon Laws 2019, section 8, chapter 463, 7 Oregon Laws 2019, section 58, chapter 700, Oregon Laws 2019, section 13, chapter 701, Oregon Laws 8 2019, section 46, chapter 367, Oregon Laws 2021, and section 9, chapter 99, Oregon Laws 2022, is 9 amended to read:

659A.885. (1) Any person claiming to be aggrieved by an unlawful practice specified in sub-10 section (2) of this section may file a civil action in circuit court. In any action under this subsection, 11 12 the court may order injunctive relief and any other equitable relief that may be appropriate, in-13 cluding but not limited to reinstatement or the hiring of employees with or without back pay. A court may order back pay in an action under this subsection only for the two-year period imme-14 15 diately preceding the filing of a complaint under ORS 659A.820 with the Commissioner of the Bureau 16 of Labor and Industries, or if a complaint was not filed before the action was commenced, the twoyear period immediately preceding the filing of the action. In any action under this subsection, the 17 18 court may allow the prevailing party costs and reasonable attorney fees at trial and on appeal. Ex-19 cept as provided in subsection (3) of this section:

20

(a) The judge shall determine the facts in an action under this subsection; and

(b) Upon any appeal of a judgment in an action under this subsection, the appellate court shall
 review the judgment pursuant to the standard established by ORS 19.415 (3).

23

31

(2) An action may be brought under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of:

(a) ORS 10.090, 10.092, 25.337, 25.424, 171.120, 243.323, 408.230, 408.237 (2), 475C.285, 476.574,
652.020, 652.220, 652.355, 653.060, 653.263, 653.265, 653.547, 653.549, 653.601 to 653.661, 657B.060 and
657B.070, 659.852, 659A.030, 659A.040, 659A.043, 659A.046, 659A.063, 659A.069, 659A.082, 659A.088,
659A.103 to 659A.145, 659A.147, 659A.150 to 659A.186, 659A.194, 659A.199, 659A.203, 659A.218,
659A.228, 659A.230, 659A.233, 659A.236, 659A.250 to 659A.262, 659A.277, 659A.290, 659A.300,
659A.306, 659A.309, 659A.315, 659A.318, 659A.320, 659A.343, 659A.355, 659A.357, 659A.370 or
659A.421 or section 5, chapter 99, Oregon Laws 2022 or section 1 of this 2023 Act; or

(b) ORS 653.470, except an action may not be brought for a claim relating to ORS 653.450.

(3) In any action under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 25.337, 25.424,
243.323, 652.220, 652.355, 653.547, 653.549, 657B.060 and 657B.070, 659.852, 659A.030, 659A.040,
659A.043, 659A.046, 659A.069, 659A.082, 659A.103 to 659A.145, 659A.199, 659A.203, 659A.228,
659A.230, 659A.250 to 659A.262, 659A.290, 659A.318, 659A.343, 659A.355, 659A.357, 659A.370 or
659A.421:

(a) The court may award, in addition to the relief authorized under subsection (1) of this section,
 compensatory damages or \$200, whichever is greater, and punitive damages;

39

(b) At the request of any party, the action shall be tried to a jury;

40 (c) Upon appeal of any judgment finding a violation, the appellate court shall review the judg 41 ment pursuant to the standard established by ORS 19.415 (1); and

42 (d) Any attorney fee agreement shall be subject to approval by the court.

(4) Notwithstanding ORS 31.730, in an action under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 652.220, the court may award punitive damages if:

45 (a) It is proved by clear and convincing evidence that an employer has engaged in fraud, acted

1 with malice or acted with willful and wanton misconduct; or

(b) An employer was previously adjudicated in a proceeding under this section or under ORS
659A.850 for a violation of ORS 652.220.

4 (5) In any action under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 653.060 or 5 659A.147, the court may award, in addition to the relief authorized under subsection (1) of this sec-6 tion, compensatory damages or \$200, whichever is greater.

(6) In any action under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 171.120, 476.574
or 659A.218, the court may award, in addition to the relief authorized under subsection (1) of this
section, compensatory damages or \$250, whichever is greater.

(7) In any action under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 10.090 or 10.092,
the court may award, in addition to the relief authorized under subsection (1) of this section, a civil
penalty in the amount of \$720.

13 (8) Any individual against whom any distinction, discrimination or restriction on account of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, marital status or age, 14 15 if the individual is 18 years of age or older, has been made by any place of public accommodation, 16 as defined in ORS 659A.400, by any employee or person acting on behalf of the place or by any person aiding or abetting the place or person in violation of ORS 659A.406 may bring an action 17 18 against the operator or manager of the place, the employee or person acting on behalf of the place 19 or the aider or abettor of the place or person. Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, in an 20action under this subsection:

(a) The court may award, in addition to the relief authorized under subsection (1) of this section,
 compensatory and punitive damages;

(b) The operator or manager of the place of public accommodation, the employee or person
acting on behalf of the place, and any aider or abettor shall be jointly and severally liable for all
damages awarded in the action;

26 (c) At the request of any party, the action shall be tried to a jury;

27 (d) The court shall award reasonable attorney fees to a prevailing plaintiff;

(e) The court may award reasonable attorney fees and expert witness fees incurred by a defendant who prevails only if the court determines that the plaintiff had no objectively reasonable
basis for asserting a claim or no reasonable basis for appealing an adverse decision of a trial court;
and

(f) Upon any appeal of a judgment under this subsection, the appellate court shall review the
 judgment pursuant to the standard established by ORS 19.415 (1).

34 (9) When the commissioner or the Attorney General has reasonable cause to believe that a 35person or group of persons is engaged in a pattern or practice of resistance to the rights protected by ORS 659A.145 or 659A.421 or federal housing law, or that a group of persons has been denied 36 37 any of the rights protected by ORS 659A.145 or 659A.421 or federal housing law, the commissioner 38 or the Attorney General may file a civil action on behalf of the aggrieved persons in the same manner as a person or group of persons may file a civil action under this section. In a civil action 39 filed under this subsection, the court may assess against the respondent, in addition to the relief 40 authorized under subsections (1) and (3) of this section, a civil penalty: 41

42 (a) In an amount not exceeding \$50,000 for a first violation; and

43 (b) In an amount not exceeding \$100,000 for any subsequent violation.

(10) In any action under subsection (1) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 659A.145 or
 659A.421 or alleging discrimination under federal housing law, when the commissioner is pursuing

## $\operatorname{SB} 717$

1 the action on behalf of an aggrieved complainant, the court shall award reasonable attorney fees to

2 the commissioner if the commissioner prevails in the action. The court may award reasonable at-

3 torney fees and expert witness fees incurred by a defendant that prevails in the action if the court 4 determines that the commissioner had no objectively reasonable basis for asserting the claim or for 5 appealing an adverse decision of the trial court.

6 (11) In an action under subsection (1) or (9) of this section alleging a violation of ORS 659A.145 7 or 659A.421 or discrimination under federal housing law:

8 (a) "Aggrieved person" includes a person who believes that the person:

9 (A) Has been injured by an unlawful practice or discriminatory housing practice; or

10 (B) Will be injured by an unlawful practice or discriminatory housing practice that is about to 11 occur.

(b) An aggrieved person in regard to issues to be determined in an action may intervene as of right in the action. The Attorney General may intervene in the action if the Attorney General certifies that the case is of general public importance. The court may allow an intervenor prevailing party costs and reasonable attorney fees at trial and on appeal.

16