

SB 1506 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Prepared By: Brian Nieuburt, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure permits pharmacists to test for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and prescribe, dispense, and administer treatment, including drug therapy, for SARS-CoV-2. It also requires the Oregon Health Plan, health insurers, the Public Employees' Benefit Board (PEBB), and Oregon Educators Benefit Board (OEGB) to reimburse for test, treatment, and pharmacist service. The measure sunsets the permission to test and treat on June 30, 2026.

Detailed Summary

Permits pharmacist to test and treat for SARS-CoV-2 consistent with protocols adopted by the State Board of Pharmacy and recommended by the Public Health and Pharmacy Formulary Advisory Committee. Specifies test requirements. Permits pharmacist to delegate to a pharmacy technician or an intern under the pharmacist's supervision the administrative and technical tasks of testing. Requires OHP, health insurers, PEBB, and OEGB to reimburse for test, treatment, and pharmacist service. Sunsets test and treat permission on June 30, 2026.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

As part of the COVID-19 Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act), pharmacists were granted immunity from liability in the administration of COVID-19 tests and treatments. In March 2022, the Biden-Harris Administration launched a nationwide [Test to Treat initiative](#) aimed at promoting quick access to COVID-19 treatments. These federal authorities are currently set to expire at the end of 2024.