

SB 1506 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Sen. Gorsek**Senate Committee On Health Care****Action Date:** 02/14/24**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)**Vote:** 5-0-0-0**Yeas:** 5 - Bonham, Campos, Gorsek, Hayden, Patterson**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Daniel Dietz, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 2/7, 2/14**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure extends temporary authority for pharmacists to test and provide treatment, including drug therapy, for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).

Detailed Summary:

Allows a pharmacist to test and then prescribe, dispense, and administer treatment, including drug therapy, for SARS-CoV-2, consistent with protocols to be adopted by rule by the Oregon State Board of Pharmacy (OSBP). Directs the OSBP's Public Health and Pharmacy Formulary Advisory Committee (PFAC) to review and recommend rules. Allows pharmacists to delegate technical tasks related to testing to a pharmacy technician or intern. Requires the Oregon Health Plan, health benefit plans, as well as Public Employees' Benefit Board (PEBB) and Oregon Educators Benefit Board (OEBB) plans to reimburse pharmacists for testing and treatment for SARS-CoV-2. Applies to plans issued, renewed, or extended on or after October 1, 2024. Sunsets June 30, 2026. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Scope of practice for pharmacists
- Points of access to testing and treatment
- Current prevalence of COVID-19

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Applies coverage requirements to health benefit plans, as well as Public Employee Benefit Board (PEBB) and Oregon Employee Benefit Board (OEBB) plans. Clarifies that pharmacists may prescribe, dispense, and administer treatment for SARS-CoV-2.

BACKGROUND:

Pharmacists in Oregon currently may only test and treat SARS-CoV-2 under federal authority ([link](#) to Ninth Amendment to Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act). This authority is set to expire on October 1, 2024. As of February 6, 2024, 189 people in Oregon hospital beds were positive for COVID-19, four of whom were using ventilators ([link](#) to Oregon Health Authority respiratory virus data).

Previously, Oregon pharmacists were allowed to test and treat SARS-CoV-2 under protocols approved by the Oregon Board of Pharmacy and its Public Health and Pharmacy Formulary Advisory Committee (PFAC) ([link](#) to PFAC website). However, due a change in labelling for Paxlovid, Oregon pharmacists are no longer permitted within the scope of their practice to test and treat SARS-CoV-2 ([link](#) to Health and Human Services website for Paxlovid labelling information). Pharmacists in Oregon would no longer be able to test and treat SARS-CoV-2 once federal authority expires on October 1, 2024.