

HB 4071 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Action Date: 02/19/24

Action: Without recommendation as to passage, with amendments, and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 11-0-0-0

Yeas: 11 - Bowman, Conrad, Dexter, Diehl, Goodwin, Javadi, Nelson, Nosse, Pham H, Tran, Yunker

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/14, 2/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure establishes a 20-member Task Force on Health Professional Licensing.

Detailed Summary:

Specifies membership and duties. Requires the task force to meet monthly from April 2024 through December 2025. Requires the task force to submit reports by September 15, 2024; September 15, 2025; and December 15, 2025. Requires the Legislative Policy and Research Office (LPRO) Director to provide staff support to the task force. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current workforce needs
- Benefit of compacts allowing providers who are licensed in other states to practice in areas of need
- Implementation considerations of joining licensure compacts
- Recent improvements in Oregon licensing boards' processing and customer service times

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Established with the creation of the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Oregon Health Policy Board (OHPB), Oregon's Health Care Workforce Reporting Program collaborates with health professional licensing boards to collect health care workforce data via boards' license renewal processes. While initially requiring reporting from nine health professional licensing boards, the Program now collects data from 17 boards. In its 2023 Workforce Supply report, the Program noted an increase in health care demands in the state due to factors like an aging population and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Health Care Workforce Committee reports directly to OHPB and coordinates efforts to recruit and educate health care professionals. House Bill 3261 (2017) requires OHPB to produce a biennial assessment in odd-numbered years of Oregon's health care workforce needs. In its 2023 Needs Assessment, OHPB issued seven recommendations for improving Oregon's health care workforce:

- Improve the diversity of providers
- Improve the supply and distribution of health care workers
- Enhance the resiliency and well-being of the workforce
- Expand training, education, and other career pathways
- Expand the use of delivery models that improve access and worker retention
- Increase the use of community-based providers

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- Improve data collection