

HB 4010 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Patterson

Senate Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 02/28/24

Action: Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. (Printed B-Eng.)

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Bonham, Campos, Gorsek, Hayden, Patterson

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure makes policy changes regarding flavoring for drugs, Oregon State Hospital staffing requirements, the definition of “primary care provider,” and the requirement that counselors and therapists submit professional disclosure statements. It also changes the title of "physician assistant" to "physician associate."

Detailed Summary:

- **Drugs**
 - Specifies that the addition of flavoring to a drug intended for dispensation may not be considered compounding under specified circumstances.
- **Hospital Staffing**
 - Exempts the Oregon State Hospital from professional, technical, and service staff requirements of House Bill 2697 (2023).
- **Health Care Providers**
 - Clarifies the definition of “primary care provider” to include clinics and provider teams for purposes of assignment by insurance carriers
- **Professional Disclosure Statement**
 - Removes the requirement that applicants and licensees of Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists submit a professional disclosure statement to the Board for approval
- **Protected Health Information**
 - Clarifies the type of acknowledgement required on protection health information (PHI) release form
- **Physician Assistants**
 - Changes the title “physician assistant” to “physician associate”

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Reasoning for change from "physician assistant" to "physician associate"
- Existing requirements for professional disclosure statements
- Provisions of the measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Conflict amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2015, the Legislative Assembly passed Senate Bill 469 updating Oregon's nurse staffing laws, including requiring hospitals to establish hospital nurse staffing committees to develop and approve hospital nurse staffing plans. The measure provided factors for hospital nurse staffing committees to consider when developing nurse staffing plans

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and required the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to audit hospitals to determine compliance with the staffing plan requirement. In 2023, the Legislative Assembly built off these standards by applying similar expectations for professional, technical, and service staff.

Physician assistants, or PAs, are licensed clinicians who work as a part of a health care team. In recent years, Oregon has moved from a model that required supervision by a physician to a model that instead requires collaboration agreements. In May 2021, the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) passed a resolution affirming "physician associate" as the official title of the PA profession.