

A-Engrossed House Bill 4071

Ordered by the House February 22
Including House Amendments dated February 22

Sponsored by Representatives DIEHL, PHAM H, Senator BONHAM; Representatives BOICE, CONRAD, CRAMER, DEXTER, GOODWIN, HELFRICH, HIEB, LEVY B, LIVELY, MANNIX, MCINTIRE, OSBORNE, OWENS, RESCHKE, SCHARF, WALLAN, YUNKER, Senators DEMBROW, FINDLEY, HANSELL, HAYDEN, JAMA, LINTHICUM, SMITH DB, SOLLMAN, WEBER (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. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act makes a task force to look at health professional regulatory boards. (Flesch Readability Score: 63.4).

[Digest: Tells health care boards to give short-term permission to work. Starts January 1, 2025. (Flesch Readability Score: 60.7).]

[Requires health professional regulatory boards to issue a temporary authorization to practice a health profession to eligible applicants within 10 days of receiving an application for licensure. Defines "health profession" and "health professional regulatory board."]

Establishes the Task Force on Health Professional Licensing Modernization. Directs the task force to submit three reports to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health, on or before September 15, 2024, September 15, 2025, and December 15, 2025.

Sunsets on December 31, 2025.

Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to health care licensing; and prescribing an effective date.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Task Force on Health Professional Licensing Modernization is es-**
5 **tablished.**

6 **(2) The task force consists of 20 members appointed as follows:**

7 **(a) The President of the Senate shall appoint two members from among members of the**
8 **Senate.**

9 **(b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members from among**
10 **the members of the House of Representatives.**

11 **(c) The Governor shall appoint 16 members as follows:**

12 **(A) A representative of the Oregon Medical Board;**

13 **(B) A representative of the State Board of Licensed Social Workers;**

14 **(C) A representative of the Oregon Board of Dentistry;**

15 **(D) A representative of the Oregon Board of Physical Therapy;**

16 **(E) A representative of the Oregon State Board of Nursing;**

17 **(F) A representative of physicians licensed under ORS chapter 677;**

18 **(G) A representative of clinical social workers licensed under ORS 675.530;**

19 **(H) A representative of dentists licensed under ORS chapter 679;**

20 **(I) A representative of nurses licensed under ORS chapter 678;**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (J) Five representatives of employers of the health professionals described in subpara-
2 graphs (F) to (I) and (L) of this paragraph, at least two of whom represent counties, two of
3 whom represent clinic systems and one of whom represents a hospital system;

4 (K) A licensed marriage and family therapist or a licensed professional counselor, as de-
5 fined in ORS 675.705; and

6 (L) A representative from the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and
7 Therapists.

8 (3) The task force shall:

9 (a) Review the mission and vision statements of the health professional regulatory boards
10 described in subsection (2) of this section;

11 (b) Recommend key performance metrics for health professional licensing processes for
12 each board;

13 (c) Recommend resources and timelines needed for the health professional regulatory
14 boards to develop actionable plans to meet their key performance metrics with a focus on
15 what is needed to deliver health professional licenses accurately, in a timely manner and
16 with high applicant satisfaction;

17 (d) Identify roadblocks to success, including applicant-facing processes, internal pro-
18 cesses and technical infrastructure;

19 (e) Review what changes in health professional regulatory board processes have been
20 successful in shortening application timelines and can be replicated;

21 (f) Review the health professional regulatory boards' technical infrastructure or other
22 resources that have been successful in improving functions;

23 (g) Identify best practices from other states' efforts to improve licensing processes;

24 (h) Explore barriers to and recommend solutions for prompt licensing of health profes-
25 sionals who move to Oregon from other states and of new graduates;

26 (i) Recommend processes by which health professionals trained outside of Oregon may
27 achieve licensure within an appropriate timeframe; and

28 (j) Recommend best practices for the health professional regulatory boards when inter-
29 acting with applicants.

30 (4) The task force may request that health professional regulatory boards, including but
31 not limited to those described in subsection (2) of this section, and the Health Licensing Of-
32 fice provide information to the task force.

33 (5) A majority of the voting members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the
34 transaction of business.

35 (6) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the voting
36 members of the task force.

37 (7) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.

38 (8) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-
39 ment to become immediately effective.

40 (9) The task force shall meet monthly from April 2024 through December 2025 and may
41 hold additional meetings at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson or of a
42 majority of the voting members of the task force.

43 (10) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

44 (11) The task force shall submit three reports in the manner provided by ORS 192.245,
45 and include recommendations for legislation, to the interim committees of the Legislative

1 **Assembly related to health. The task force shall submit the reports on or before:**

2 **(a) September 15, 2024;**

3 **(b) September 15, 2025; and**

4 **(c) December 15, 2025.**

5 **(12) The Legislative Policy and Research Director shall provide staff support to the task**
6 **force.**

7 **(13) Members of the Legislative Assembly appointed to the task force are nonvoting**
8 **members of the task force and may act in an advisory capacity only.**

9 **(14) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are not**
10 **entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses and serve as volunteers on the task**
11 **force.**

12 **(15) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist**
13 **the task force in the performance of the duties of the task force and, to the extent permitted**
14 **by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the task**
15 **force consider necessary to perform their duties.**

16 **SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2024 Act is repealed on December 31, 2025.**

17 **SECTION 3. This 2024 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2024**
18 **regular session of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.**

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