

# Senate Bill 1578

Sponsored by Senator MANNING JR, Representatives NELSON, DEXTER, Senator GORSEK; Senators CAMPOS, DEMBROW, FREDERICK, JAMA, Representatives BYNUM, CHAICHI, GAMBA, GRAYBER, HARTMAN, LIVELY, MARSH, NOSSE, PHAM H, REYNOLDS, RUIZ, SOSA (at the request of Lamar Wise, AFSCME) (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 **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act directs the OHA to set up a health care interpreter management system. The Act requires the OHA to contract with a nonprofit entity to manage the system. The Act sets out certain requirements for the nonprofit. The Act requires the nonprofit to submit a report to the OHA each year. (Flesch Readability Score: 60.2).

Directs the Oregon Health Authority to establish and maintain an online portal with the functionality to provide online scheduling for health care providers and coordinated care organizations to use to contact health care interpreters directly and to process billing. Requires the authority to contract with a nonprofit entity to administer the portal. Provides criteria and reporting requirements that the contracting nonprofit must meet.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to health care interpreters.

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

4 **SECTION 1. Sections 2 and 3 of this 2024 Act are added to and made a part of ORS 413.550**  
5 **to 413.559.**

6 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section and section 3 of this 2024 Act:**

7 **(a) "Interpreter management system" means an online portal that meets the require-**  
8 **ments under subsection (3) of this section.**

9 **(b) "Nonprofit entity" means an organization that:**

10 **(A) Is registered in this state;**

11 **(B) Is exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; and**

12 **(C) Works with certified and qualified health care interpreters and individuals from im-**  
13 **migrant, refugee, low-income and rural communities.**

14 **(2)(a) For purposes of improving access to certified and qualified health care interpreters,**  
15 **the Oregon Health Authority shall establish and maintain an interpreter management system**  
16 **that has the functionality to meet the requirements described under subsection (3) of this**  
17 **section.**

18 **(b) If a software program is available for purchase that is appropriate for the interpreter**  
19 **management system, the authority may contract with the vendor of the software program**  
20 **in lieu of creating a new software program.**

21 **(3) The interpreter management system shall have the capability to:**

22 **(a) Provide online scheduling resources that health care providers, including coordinated**  
23 **care organizations, may use to directly schedule appointments with certified and qualified**  
24 **health care interpreters; and**

25 **(b) Process billing and payments for health care interpreter services scheduled through**

**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 the portal.

2 **SECTION 3.** (1) The Oregon Health Authority shall contract with a nonprofit entity for  
3 the administration and management of the interpreter management system described under  
4 section 2 of this 2024 Act. The nonprofit entity contracting with the authority must meet,  
5 at a minimum, the following requirements and standards:

6 (a) Providing low-cost training and continuing education opportunities for certified and  
7 qualified health care interpreters.

8 (b) The ability to directly contact qualified and certified health care interpreters to fill  
9 empty appointment slots and last-minute cancellations.

10 (c) Having a plan for recruiting and retaining certified and qualified health care inter-  
11 preters.

12 (d) Maintaining a commitment to involving certified and qualified health care interpret-  
13 ers and labor organizations that represent health care interpreters in developing strategies  
14 to improve education and training, recruitment and support for the health care interpreter  
15 workforce.

16 (e) Providing information to health care interpreters regarding the health care inter-  
17 preter qualification and certification standards established by the Oregon Health Authority.

18 (f) Informing health care interpreters of training and professional development opportu-  
19 nities, made available through the nonprofit entity or otherwise, that are in accordance with  
20 standards adopted by the Oregon Health Authority under ORS 413.558.

21 (2) A nonprofit entity that contracts with the Oregon Health Authority under subsection  
22 (1) of this section shall report annually to the authority on the:

23 (a) Amount of moneys received from the authority that were applied toward providing  
24 training and recruitment of health care interpreters, if any;

25 (b) Health care interpreter training provided by the nonprofit entity;

26 (c) Outreach and recruitment efforts directed toward certified and qualified health care  
27 interpreters that the nonprofit entity has provided or plans to provide; and

28 (d) Status of the health care interpreter management system administered by the  
29 nonprofit entity.

30 **SECTION 4.** The Oregon Health Authority shall take all steps necessary to secure federal  
31 financial participation in the costs of directly reimbursing health care interpreters for health  
32 care interpretation services provided to medical assistance recipients, including but not  
33 limited to seeking approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for a dem-  
34 onstration project under 42 U.S.C. 1315.