

## SENATE AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 1578

By COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

February 15

1 On page 1 of the printed bill, line 2, before the period insert “; and prescribing an effective  
2 date”.

3 Delete lines 6 through 25 and delete page 2 and insert:

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

5 **“(a) ‘Interpreter management system’ means an online portal that meets the require-  
6 ments under subsection (3) of this section.**

7 **“(b) ‘Nonprofit entity’ means an organization that:**

8 **“(A) Is registered in this state;**

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

10 **“(C) Works with certified and qualified health care interpreters and individuals from  
11 immigrant, refugee, low-income and rural communities and representatives of urban and  
12 rural regional councils of government.**

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

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

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

21 **“(a) Provide an online scheduling mechanism that health care providers, including coor-  
22 dinated care organizations, may use to directly schedule appointments with certified and  
23 qualified health care interpreters; and**

24 **“(b) Process billing and payments for health care interpreter services scheduled through  
25 the interpreter management system.**

26 **“SECTION 3. (1)(a) The Oregon Health Authority shall enter into a contract with a  
27 nonprofit entity to develop and administer a health care interpreter recruitment and re-  
28 tention program. The purpose of the program is to recruit individuals to become trained as  
29 qualified and certified health care interpreters and to promote retention of certified health  
30 care interpreters within the health care interpreter profession.**

31 **“(b) The nonprofit entity contracting with the authority must meet, at a minimum, the  
32 following requirements and standards:**

33 **“(A) The ability to directly contact qualified and certified health care interpreters to fill  
34 empty appointment slots and last-minute cancellations by scheduling appointments through  
35 the interpreter management system described under section 2 of this 2024 Act, or otherwise.**

1       “(B) Providing information, in consultation with the Oregon Health Authority, to health  
2 care interpreters regarding the health care interpreter qualification and certification stan-  
3 dards established by the authority.

4       “(C) Informing health care interpreters of training and professional development oppor-  
5 tunities, made available through the nonprofit entity or otherwise, that are in accordance  
6 with standards adopted by the Oregon Health Authority under ORS 413.558.

7       “(2) A nonprofit entity that contracts and consults with the Oregon Health Authority  
8 under subsection (1) of this section shall report annually to the authority on the:

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

11       “(b) Health care interpreter training provided by the nonprofit entity, if any;

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

14       “(d) The fill rates of appointments scheduled through the interpreter management sys-  
15 tem described under section 2 of this 2024 Act.

16       “SECTION 4. Not later than January 1, 2025, the Oregon Health Authority shall take all  
17 steps necessary to secure federal financial participation in the costs of directly reimbursing  
18 health care interpreters for health care interpretation services provided to medical assist-  
19 ance recipients.

20       “SECTION 5. This 2024 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2024  
21 regular session of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.”  
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