

SB 834 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

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Meeting Dates: 2/4, 2/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure changes statutes relating to the Oregon State Hospital to specify current hospital practices.

Detailed Summary:

Makes the following changes to ORS 426:

- Prohibits the Oregon State Hospital from providing care or treatment to patients under 18 years of age.
- Adds psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners as providers who may determine if a patient qualifies for an “extremely dangerous” civil commitment.
- Separates the roles of chief medical officer and superintendent at the Oregon State Hospital, even if the superintendent is a physician.

Makes the following changes to ORS 161:

- Requires that initial patient evaluations must be performed by a certified evaluator.
- Replaces the term “symptomology” with the term “symptomatology.”

Fiscal impact: *Has minimal fiscal impact*

Revenue impact: *No revenue impact*

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon State Hospital (OSH) is established in [ORS 426.101](#) and provides psychiatric treatment for adults throughout the state who need hospital-level care. OSH treats people who have been civilly committed to the institution, who have been found by the courts to be Guilty Except for Insanity (GEI), or who are under an aid and assist order. [ORS 161.370](#) and [ORS 161.290](#) provide definitions and processes for civil commitment, GEI, and aid and assist.

SB 834 changes ORS 426 and ORS 161 to prohibit minors from receiving care at OSH, allow psychiatric nurse practitioners to determine if a patient meets requirements for “extremely dangerous” civil commitment, separate the roles of hospital superintendent and chief medical officer, require patient evaluations be conducted by a certified evaluator, and replaces the term “symptomology” with the term “symptomatology.”