HB 3234-2 (LC 1775) 3/10/25 (TSB/ps)

Requested by Representative NATHANSON

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 3234

- On page 1 of the printed bill, line 2, after the first semicolon delete the
- 2 rest of the line and line 3 and insert "and declaring an emergency.".
- Delete lines 5 through 25 and delete page 2 and insert:
- 4 "SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:
- "(a) 'Affiliate' means a person that controls, is controlled by or is
- 6 under common control with another person, whether by ownership of
- 7 an interest in the person or the other person, or by means of a con-
- 8 tractual arrangement or other agreement that provides for the right
- 9 to direct the management of the person or the other person.
- "(b) 'Health care provider' has the meaning given that term in ORS 413.164.
- "(c) 'Health insurance' has the meaning given that term in ORS 731.162.
- "(d) 'Insurer' has the meaning given that term in ORS 731.106.
- "(e)(A) 'Responsible person' means:
- "(i) An insurer that issues policies of health insurance in this state;
- "(ii) A pharmacy benefit manager, as defined in ORS 735.530;
- "(iii) A pharmacy services administrative organization, as defined
- in section 2, chapter 87, Oregon Laws 2024;
- 20 "(iv) A person that provides services for or on behalf of a health 21 care provider that include:

1 "(I) Payroll;

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- 2 "(II) Human resources;
- 3 "(III) Employment screening;
- 4 "(IV) Employee relations; or
- "(V) Any other administrative or business service that supports or enables a health care provider to provide health care but that does not constitute practicing medicine, as described in ORS 677.085, or enabling physicians, physician associates and nurse practitioners to jointly render professional health care services; or
 - "(v) A person that employs a health care provider or furnishes clinical facilities, offices, equipment or other means by which a health care provider may provide health care or services related to health care.
- 14 "(B) 'Responsible person' does not include a health care provider.
- "(2) A responsible person or an affiliate of a responsible person may

 not:
 - "(a) Direct or require a health care provider to:
 - "(A) Spend an amount of time in providing consultation or treatment to a patient that is other than the amount of time that, in the professional medical judgment of the health care provider, is necessary to provide appropriate medical care;
 - "(B) Prescribe or use certain medications, other than generic substitutes for medications the health care provider prescribes, if the requirement or direction is contrary to the professional medical judgment of the health care provider; or
- "(C) Code a diagnosis, treatment or other health care intervention in a particular manner for the purposes of insurance coverage, if the requirement or direction is contrary to the health care provider's professional medical judgment as to the proper, medically justified category of diagnosis, treatment or intervention.

- "(b) Restrict or reduce a patient's access to health care in circumstances in which the patient continues to pay for a health insurance plan or policy that provides coverage to the patient or in which the restriction or reduction would result in a violation of the duty of care required of a physician under ORS 677.095. Actions that unlawfully restrict or reduce patient access to health care under the circumstances described in this paragraph include, but are not limited to:
- "(A) Terminating or requiring the termination of the employment of health care providers for reasons other than a failure to meet the duty of care required under ORS 677.095 or under the requirements specified for patient care under the health care provider's license;
- "(B) Eliminating, transferring or reassigning or requiring the elimination, transfer or reassignment of health care provider positions;
- "(C) Closing or requiring the closure of clinical facilities or other facilities necessary to provide adequate health care for patients; or
- "(D) Reducing or eliminating funding, maintenance, office space or equipment for clinical facilities or other facilities necessary to provide adequate health care for patients.
- "(c) Limit or direct a patient to a certain insurer or certain health insurance plan or policy as a condition of access to a health care provider's services. This paragraph does not require a responsible person or health care provider to accept all health insurance plans or policies or limit the responsible person's or health care provider's choice of which health insurance plans or policies to accept for the purpose of providing health care.
- "(d) Otherwise hinder or interfere with the professional medical judgment of the health care provider in administering appropriate health care to a patient.
 - "(3)(a) Notwithstanding ORS 731.236 and 731.256 (4), if the Attorney

- 1 General determines that a responsible person has violated or is likely
- 2 to violate this section, the Attorney General may issue and serve an
- 3 investigative demand as provided in ORS 646A.589. Solely for the pur-
- 4 pose of issuing the investigative demand, the Attorney General may
- 5 treat a violation of this section as equivalent to a violation of ORS
- 6 **646A.570 to 646A.589.**
- 7 (b) Notwithstanding ORS 731.236 and 731.256 (4), the Attorney Gen-
- 8 eral may, after completing an investigation under paragraph (a) of this
- 9 subsection or, in circumstances the Attorney General deems appro-
- 10 priate, without first executing an investigative demand, bring an
- action in a circuit court of this state to:
 - (A) Enjoin a responsible person from a violation of this section; or
- 13 (B) Seek a penalty in an amount that does not exceed \$20,000 for
- each instance of the violation, except that in the case of a continuing
- violation, the penalty for each day's violation may not exceed \$1,000
- and the total penalty for the continuing violation may not exceed
- 17 **\$100,000**.

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- 18 (c) A court, as appropriate, may:
 - (A) Punish as contempt a responsible person's disobedience of a
- 20 final order of a court under this subsection; or
 - (B) Award to the Attorney General the costs of an investigation
- 22 under paragraph (a) of this subsection or the Attorney General's at-
- 23 torney fees and costs in an action under paragraph (b) of this sub-
- 24 section.
- "SECTION 2. This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate
- 26 preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is
- declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect on its passage.".

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