

SB 253 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 1/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes the Public Health Officer to appoint a local health officer for a county that has transferred the responsibility of the local public health authority in the county to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). Allows OHA discretion to transfer responsibility from local public health authority to OHA earlier than 180 days after adoption of local ordinance mandating transfer. Clarifies that if local public health authority transfers responsibility, OHA has the authority of a local public health authority and local public health administrator within the former local public health authority's jurisdiction. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2013, the Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 2348 which created the Task Force on the Future of Public Health Services Task Force (Task Force). The Task Force was charged with developing recommendations to "modernize" Oregon's public health system. This work resulted in House Bill 3100, which the Legislative Assembly passed in 2015. House Bill 3100 gave local public health jurisdictions additional flexibility to help meet the needs of the community, including the ability to transfer local public health authority to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). A local health officer appointed by OHA must be a licensed physician and able to perform the medical responsibilities that require the services of a physician.

Senate Bill 253 adds the authority of OHA to appoint a local health officer in a county that has transferred its local public health authority to the State.