

HB 2945 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Oregon Health Authority to increase the number of full-time employees responsible for investigating hospital-based nurse staffing plan complaints. Modifies composition of hospital nurse staffing committees to include three certified nursing assistants. Increases penalties for violations of hospital-wide staffing plan from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

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:

-2 Requires a hospital nurse staffing committee to review written hospital staffing plan upon the request of one or more direct care staff who express staffing or patient safety concerns. Requires committee to consider and report on the health and safety of staff. Removes emergency clause.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 469 passed in 2015, requiring Oregon each hospital to establish a hospital nurse staffing committee to develop a written hospital-wide staffing plan to ensure that the hospital is staffed to meet the health care needs of patients. In addition, the bill established the 12-member Nurse Staffing Advisory Board charged with advising the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) regarding administration of staffing plans and reviewing OHA's ability to enforce staffing plans. The measure also requires OHA to audit individual hospitals every three years and make publicly available findings of these audits. Hospitals found to be in violation of the administrative rules for nurse staffing services receive an audit report and must submit a plan of correction to OHA, which must be approved by the agency. OHA maintains and posts online any reports generated from nurse staffing surveys and complaint investigations.

House Bill 2945 seeks to increase resources for the Oregon Health Authority to oversee and enforce hospital nurse staffing plans.