

House Bill 2621

Sponsored by Representative NOBLE, Senators MONNES ANDERSON, KNOPP; Representatives BARKER, BONHAM, GREENLICK, LEIF, SMITH G, Senators FREDERICK, MANNING JR (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires Oregon Health Authority to establish or contract for establishment of statewide mental health crisis support access line to facilitate specified services for individuals experiencing behavioral health crises.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to individuals experiencing behavioral health crises; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:

(a) **"Behavioral health clinician" has the meaning given that term in ORS 414.025.**

(b) **"Behavioral health crisis" means a disruption in an individual's mental or emotional stability or functioning resulting in an urgent need for immediate treatment to prevent a serious deterioration in the individual's mental or physical health.**

(c) **"Caring contacts" means brief communications with an individual that begin when the individual transitions from one level of care or care setting to another level of care or care setting, or when an individual misses an appointment or withdraws from treatment, and continue as long as a provider deems necessary.**

(d) **"Patient" means an individual admitted to a hospital, or presenting to an emergency department of a hospital, for behavioral health treatment.**

(e) **"Provider" means a behavioral health clinician or any of the following individuals, as defined in ORS 414.025:**

(A) **Peer support specialist.**

(B) **Peer wellness specialist.**

(C) **Family support specialist.**

(D) **Youth support specialist.**

(2) **The Oregon Health Authority shall establish or contract for the establishment of a statewide mental health crisis support access line to provide to hospital staff the following services:**

(a) **Facilitating caring contacts for a patient who presented with a behavioral health crisis to transition to a provider in the community; and**

(b) **Follow-up services for a patient who presented with a behavioral health crisis to ensure a successful transition to outpatient services.**

(3) **If a behavioral health clinician determines that a patient attempted suicide or experienced suicidal ideation, the statewide mental health crisis support access line must attempt to initiate caring contacts within 48 hours of the patient's release from the hospital.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **SECTION 2.** The Oregon Health Authority shall report to the regular session of the
2 Eighty-first Legislative Assembly, in the manner provided in ORS 192.245, on the barriers
3 within each community in this state that limit the availability of appropriate follow-up care
4 for a patient released or discharged from a hospital following treatment for a behavioral
5 health crisis, as defined in section 1 of this 2019 Act.

6 **SECTION 3.** No later than September 15, 2020, the Oregon Health Authority shall report
7 to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health, in the manner
8 provided in ORS 192.245, recommendations for increasing access to providers in each com-
9 munity in this state to meet the needs of each patient who is released from an emergency
10 department following treatment for a behavioral health crisis, as defined in section 1 of this
11 2019 Act.

12 **SECTION 4.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
13 ated to the Oregon Health Authority, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, out of the
14 General Fund, the amount of \$1,000, which may be expended for carrying out the provisions
15 of section 1 of this 2019 Act.

16 **SECTION 5.** Section 1 of this 2019 Act becomes operative on July 1, 2019.

17 **SECTION 6.** This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
18 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect
19 on its passage.
20
