

HB 4032 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/6, 2/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$1,383,589 to the Oregon Health Authority to fund the agency's hospital nurse staffing program. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

REVENUE: Revenue impact statement issued: No impact.

FISCAL: Fiscal impact statement issued: impact - see statement.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Assistance for Oregon Health Authority's nursing staffing program
- History of Oregon's nurse staffing statutes; ongoing hospital surveys and staffing reports
- Compliance with nursing staffing requirements
- Addressing provisions of the measure through policy versus a budget note in OHA's agency budget

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2015, Senate Bill 469 passed, requiring 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.

In 2019, House Bill 2945 sought to increase resources for OHA to oversee and enforce hospital nurse staffing plans by increasing the number of full-time employees responsible for investigating hospital-based nurse staffing plan complaints. The measure failed to pass.

House Bill 4032 appropriates \$1,383,589 to the Oregon Health Authority to fund the agency's hospital nurse staffing program.