

HB 2965 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 3/23, 3/25, 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Extends deadline for local health authorities to submit local public health modernization plans to Oregon Health Authority (OHA) from December 31, 2023 to December 31, 2025.

REVENUE: statement issued - no impact.

FISCAL: statement issued - no impact.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Recent legislative investments in public health modernization; additional needed investments
- Federal COVID-19 relief packages, tobacco Master Settlement Agreement, and public health funding
- Reassessment of public health modernization due to COVID-19 pandemic

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2015, House Bill 3100 passed restructuring the framework for how public health services are provided to Oregonians. The measure established foundational public health capabilities and programs to detect and prevent infectious diseases, protect the public from exposure to environmental hazards, and respond to natural and man-made disasters in Oregon's communities. In 2017, House Bill 2310 passed modifying and the requirements established in HB 3100 for modernizing the state's public health system, including modifying the timeline and process for submitting local public health implementation plans, and clarifying formula distribution language.

According to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), local health authorities (LHAs) : (1) Investigate disease outbreaks and coordinates with state public health to staff outbreak investigations; (2) enforce laws, such as the Indoor Clean Air Act and Immunization of School Children; (3) issue licenses and inspects establishments including restaurants, pools and lodging facilities; and (4) develop partnerships with local communities to address needs. As part of Public Health Modernization, HB 3100 requires each LHA to develop and submit plans to OHA on how it will implement and carry out the seven foundational capabilities and four foundational programs by December 31, 2023.

House Bill 2965 extends the deadline for local health authorities to submit its plans to OHA to modernize public health in Oregon.