

SB 674 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 3/31, 4/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to investigate best practices and latest technology and establish hospital procedures to enable family members to visit hospitalized patients during pandemic. Requires OHA to report on its findings and any procedures established by September 15, 2022. 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 response to the COVID-19 pandemic, regulatory authorities at the federal (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid) and state (Oregon Health Authority) levels have issued guidance regarding screening and restriction of hospital visitors. This guidance has required hospitals to adopt and enforce policies and procedures to ensure visitation is compliant with applicable standards. During the 1st Special Session, the Legislative Assembly passed Senate Bill 1606 allowing specified hospital patients to designate a support persons who could be present with the patient during the entirety of the hospital stay.

Senate Bill 674 requires the Oregon Health Authority to establish hospital procedures to enable family members to visit hospitalized patients during pandemic.