

Legislative Fiscal Office

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Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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To: Human Services Subcommittee

From: Tom MacDonald, Legislative Fiscal Office

Date: June 16, 2021

Subject: HB 2980 – Relating to residential peer support for individuals with mental illness who are in crisis
Work Session Recommendations

HB 2980, with the -A6 amendment, directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to provide funding to one or more peer-run organizations to operate four peer respite centers in the Portland metro area, southern Oregon, the Oregon coast, and central/eastern Oregon. Peer respite services are voluntary, nonclinical, short-term residential peer support provided in a homelike setting to individuals with mental illness or trauma response symptoms who are experiencing symptoms that may lead to the need for higher-level care, such as at a psychiatric inpatient hospital. Each peer respite center is to provide up to two weeks of continuous peer respite services to six or fewer individuals.

OHA is to prescribe by rule the requirements for peer respite centers receiving funding under this measure. OHA may require peer respite centers to provide data and other reports to allow OHA to monitor and evaluate the services provided. OHA is to collaborate with county behavioral health departments and contractors to incorporate peer respite services into the continuum of care. This measure appropriates \$6.0 million General Fund to OHA, with \$750,000 to be distributed from these funds each year to each peer respite center. This measure is largely operative on January 1, 2022; the measure declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.

The -A6 amendment changes the number of peer respite centers that must be funded from three to four and adds the Oregon coast as one of the required regions (in addition to Portland metro and Oregon southern, central, and eastern regions). It also changes the appropriation from \$4.5 million for providing \$750,000 for each peer respite center per year to \$6 million for providing \$750,000 to each one per year. The -A7 amendment changes the reference to “a community of color” with respect to the requirement for at least one peer respite center to participate in a pilot project to provide services a community of color to “historically underrepresented communities.”

In addition to the \$6.0 million General Fund appropriated by this measure, OHA anticipates the same fiscal impact with or without the -A6 and -A7 amendments. OHA anticipates

needing a position to oversee program implementation and monitoring of services. Existing OHA staff will work on program planning during the first six months of the 2021-23 biennium. If an additional staff member is needed and cannot be supported within existing resources, the agency will request funding for the position as part of an agency budget rebalance.

The measure previously had hearings in the House Committee on Behavioral Health on 2/17/2021, 4/5/2021, and was reported out with a do pass recommendation.

Recommended Changes

LFO recommends adoption of the -A6 and -A7 amendments.

Final Subcommittee Action

LFO recommends that HB 2980, as amended by the -A6 and -A7 amendments, be moved to the Ways and Means Full Committee.

Carriers

Full Committee: _____

House Floor: _____

Senate Floor: _____