

House Bill 2841

Sponsored by Representative PRUSAK (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**.

Directs Oregon Health Authority to award grant moneys to eligible school-based health center pilot projects to expand access to health care services and improve health and education outcomes for students through telehealth. Defines "telehealth." Establishes eligibility criteria for pilot projects.

Directs authority to report to interim committee of Legislative Assembly on effectiveness and success of pilot projects not later than December 31, 2025.

Sunset January 2, 2026.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to school nurses; and prescribing an effective date.

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

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

4
5 (a) "Distant site" means the site where a physician licensed under ORS chapter 677, or
6 other licensed health care practitioner, who provides health care services through telehealth
7 is located at the time the physician or licensed health care practitioner provides the health
8 care service through telehealth.

9 (b) "Originating site" means the site where the patient is located at the time the patient
10 receives health care services provided through telehealth.

11 (c) "School-based health center" has the meaning given that term in ORS 413.225.

12 (d) "School nurse" means:

13 (A) A school nurse as defined in ORS 342.455; or

14 (B) A registered nurse who is an employee or contractor of a school district and who
15 practices nursing in a school setting.

16 (e) "Telehealth" means the use of electronic and telecommunication technologies to de-
17 liver health care services to a patient.

18 (2)(a) The Oregon Health Authority shall award grant moneys to an eligible school-based
19 health center pilot project to expand student access to mental and physical health care ser-
20 vices and to improve the health and education outcomes of students through the use of
21 telehealth.

22 (b) To be eligible for a grant under this subsection, a school-based health center shall
23 enter into a pilot project agreement with a school district. The pilot project agreement must
24 provide that:

25 (A) The school-based health center is the distant site that provides telehealth in con-
26 junction with a school nurse located at the originating site; and

27 (B) The school-based health center will allocate to the school district a portion of funds
28 received under this subsection to increase school nurse capacity and assist in offsetting costs

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 incurred by the school district as a result of the school district's participation in the pilot
2 project.

3 (c) Funds described in this subsection may be used to:

4 (A) Compensate the following individuals for services provided pursuant to a pilot project:

5 (i) A school nurse;

6 (ii) A licensed health care practitioner located at a school-based health center; and

7 (iii) Administrative or technical staff at a school-based health center;

8 (B) Cover the costs of:

9 (i) Technical equipment necessary to provide telehealth; and

10 (ii) Technical assistance related to the use and function of equipment necessary to pro-
11 vide telehealth; and

12 (C) Cover other costs related to the pilot project's provision of telehealth.

13 (3) The authority:

14 (a) Shall assist school-based health centers and school districts that enter into pilot
15 project agreements in the efficient use of funds distributed under subsection (2) of this sec-
16 tion.

17 (b) May coordinate with one or more statewide nonprofit organizations that have expe-
18 rience in supporting school-based health centers and school nurses to carry out this section.

19 (4) A school-based health center that operates a pilot project shall report, on an interval
20 determined by the authority, to the authority on the progress of the pilot project in a man-
21 ner that allows the authority to determine the effectiveness of the pilot project.

22 (5) The authority shall establish a process to evaluate at least the following information
23 regarding a pilot project established under this section:

24 (a) Billing practices and reimbursements;

25 (b) Access to health care services;

26 (c) Impact on student absence from schools; and

27 (d) Workflow practices.

28 (6) Not later than December 31, 2025, the authority shall submit a report, in the manner
29 provided in ORS 192.245, to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to
30 health care, on the effectiveness and success of pilot projects established under this section.
31 The authority may include in the report submitted under this subsection recommendations
32 for legislation.

33 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated to the Oregon Health Authority, for the biennium be-
34 ginning July 1, 2021, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$950,000 for the purpose of
35 carrying out the provisions of section 1 of this 2021 Act.

36 **SECTION 3.** Section 1 of this 2021 Act is repealed on January 2, 2026.

37 **SECTION 4.** (1) Section 1 of this 2021 Act becomes operative on January 1, 2022.

38 (2) The Oregon Health Authority may take any action before the operative date specified
39 in subsection (1) of this section that is necessary to enable the authority to exercise, on and
40 after the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section, all of the duties, functions
41 and powers conferred on the authority by section 1 of this 2021 Act.

42 **SECTION 5.** This 2021 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2021
43 regular session of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.