

Senate Bill 719

Sponsored by Senator DEMBROW, Representative POWER

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**.

Provides that certain aggregate data relating to reportable disease investigations are not confidential or exempt from disclosure under public records law unless data could reasonably lead to identification of individual.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to reportable diseases; amending ORS 433.008; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 433.008 is amended to read:

5 433.008. (1)(a) Except as **otherwise** provided in [*subsection (2) of*] this section, information ob-
6 tained by the Oregon Health Authority or a local public health administrator in the course of an
7 investigation of a reportable disease or disease outbreak is confidential and is exempt from disclo-
8 sure under ORS 192.311 to 192.478.

9 **(b) Aggregate data derived from information obtained by the authority or a local public**
10 **health administrator in the course of an investigation of a reportable disease or disease**
11 **outbreak are not confidential or exempt from disclosure under ORS 192.311 to 192.478 unless**
12 **the data could reasonably lead to the identification of an individual.**

13 [*(b)*] (c) Except as required for the administration or enforcement of public health laws or rules,
14 a state or local public health official or employee may not be examined in an administrative or ju-
15 dicial proceeding about the existence or contents of a reportable disease report or other information
16 received by the authority or local public health administrator in the course of an investigation of
17 a reportable disease or disease outbreak.

18 (2) The authority or a local public health administrator may release information obtained during
19 an investigation of a reportable disease or disease outbreak to:

20 (a) State, local or federal agencies authorized to receive the information under state or federal
21 law;

22 (b) Health care providers if necessary for the evaluation or treatment of a reportable disease;

23 (c) Law enforcement officials to the extent necessary to carry out the authority granted to the
24 Public Health Director and local public health administrators under ORS 433.121, 433.128, 433.131,
25 433.138 and 433.142;

26 (d) A person who may have been exposed to a communicable disease;

27 (e) A person with information necessary to assist the authority or local public health adminis-
28 trator in identifying an individual who may have been exposed to a communicable disease; and

29 (f) The individual who is the subject of the information or the legal representative of that indi-
30 vidual.

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 (3) The authority or local public health administrator may release individually identifiable in-
2 formation under subsection (2)(d) or (e) of this section only if there is clear and convincing evidence
3 that the release is necessary to avoid an immediate danger to other individuals or to the public.

4 (4) The authority or local public health administrator may release only the minimum amount of
5 information necessary to carry out the purpose of the release pursuant to subsection (2) of this
6 section.

7 (5) A decision not to disclose information under this [subsection] **section**, if made in good faith,
8 shall not subject the entity or person withholding the information to any liability.

9 (6) Nothing in this section:

10 (a) Prevents the authority or a local public health administrator from publishing statistical
11 compilations and reports relating to reportable disease investigations if the compilations and reports
12 do not identify individual cases or sources of information;

13 (b) Affects the confidentiality or admissibility into evidence of information not otherwise confi-
14 dential or privileged that is obtained from sources other than the authority; or

15 (c) Prevents dispositions of information pursuant to ORS 192.105.

16 **SECTION 2. This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
17 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect**
18 **on its passage.**