

HB 4003 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/7, 2/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon State Board of Nursing (Board) to issue nurse intern license and specifies qualifications. Requires that nurse intern receive academic credit in addition to monetary compensation for work. Allows nurse intern to perform practice nursing subject to specified limitations and under the direct supervision of registered nurse. Specifies responsibilities for supervising nurse. Requires Health Care Workforce Committee to convene advisory committee to identify and describe the challenges in addressing staffing shortages in the nursing fields and requires advisory committee to submit report to Legislative Assembly by November 15, 2022. Expands period nonresident nurses may practice in Oregon from 30 to 90 days and modifies permitted practice locations. Requires facilities experiencing temporary staffing shortage to notify nurses' exclusive bargaining representative of shortage and other information. Allows Board to accept applications fees from person other than applicant for licensure. Directs Board to support a wellness program for nurses that provides accessible, confidential and helpful services to health care providers and appropriates General Fund moneys. 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:

-2 Makes receipt of academic credit for nurse intern permissive. Requires Board to allow for and encourage participation by individuals practicing as certified nursing assistants, licensed professional nurses or medical assistants in the nurse internship licensure program. Deletes requirement that Health Care Workforce Committee convene advisory committee. Clarifies health care settings nurse shortage provisions apply to. Clarifies Board's required support of wellness program available to nurses practicing in Oregon. Modifies effective dates.

BACKGROUND:

In 2018, the Oregon Employment Department projected that approximately 2,600 nurses were needed each year over the next decade to replace nurses leaving the profession and fill new positions related to due to industry growth. However, 2019 data from the state's nursing programs that only 1,555 newly-graduated registered nurses were available to enter the workforce. The COVID-19 pandemic added additional stress and burnout to Oregon's nurse workforce and exasperated the shortage that already existed.

House Bill 4003 makes several changes to the practice of nursing in Oregon to address the workforce shortage, including establishing a nurse intern license, expanding permitted nonresident practice, and supporting a nurse wellness program.