

SB 1529 A -A3, -A6, -A7 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

Prepared By: Brian Nieubuurt, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/21, 2/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to declare a health care emergency and to deploy the State Emergency Registry of Volunteers in Oregon (SERV-OR). Defines "health care emergency." Directs the agency to provide workers' compensation coverage for SERV-OR providers. Applies existing requirements for contracts between pharmacies and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) to all contracts entered into, renewed, or extended on or after January 1, 2021, and contracts automatically renewed on or after January 1, 2023. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A3 Deletes definition of "health care emergency" and other changes to emergency health care provider provisions. Allows Public Health Director to direct and deploy volunteer health care providers upon approval of Governor.

-A6 Deletes definition of "health care emergency" and other changes to emergency health care provider provisions. Allows Public Health Director to direct and deploy volunteer health care providers upon approval of Governor.

-A7 Modifies definition of "health care emergency." Makes appointment of Public Health Director subject to confirmation by Senate. Establishes minimum educational and experience qualifications for Public Health Director and specifies additional qualifications if Director serves as state epidemiologist. Allows Governor to declare public health emergency without approval of Legislative Assembly for period no exceeding 30 days. Allows extension of emergency declaration with approval of two-thirds of each house of Legislative Assembly. Requires Public Health Director to submit report to Legislative Assembly every seven days while emergency declaration is in effect.

BACKGROUND:

Pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) are intermediaries between health insurers, pharmacies, wholesalers, and manufacturers. Most health insurers contract with PBMs to provide third-party administrative services for the insurer's pharmacy benefit. House Bill 2185 (2019) imposed a number of requirements on PBMs operating in the state, including prohibiting the requirement that prescriptions be filled via mail order pharmacy and limiting the retroactive denial or reduction of claims.

The State Emergency Registry of Volunteers in Oregon (SERV-OR) is a database of health care professionals, including physicians, nurses, pharmacists, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), behavioral health providers, respiratory therapists and others who serve in response to emergencies. Providers who are licensed in another state may practice in Oregon upon declaration of an emergency.

Senate Bill 1529 A applies the pharmacy benefit manager requirements established in HB 2185 (2019) to all contracts entered into, renewed, or extended on or after January 1, 2021, and contracts automatically renewed on or after January 1, 2023. SB 1529 A also allows the Oregon Health Authority to declare a health care emergency and to deploy SERV-OR volunteers.