

HB 4003 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 02/11/22

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 9-0-1-0

Yeas: 9 - Alonso Leon, Campos, Dexter, Hayden, Moore-Green, Prusak, Salinas, Schouten, Weber

Exc: 1 - Noble

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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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. Permits nurse intern to 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 identify and describe the challenges in addressing staffing shortages in the nursing fields and submit report to Legislative Assembly by November 15, 2022. Expands period nonresident nurses may practice in Oregon from 30 to 90 days. Requires facilities experiencing temporary staffing shortage to notify nurses' exclusive bargaining representative of shortage and other information. Clarifies facility types that nurse staffing provisions apply to. Allows Board to accept application fees from person other than applicant for licensure. Directs Board support an Oregon nonprofit organization that promotes the well-being of Oregon health professionals through education, coordinated regional counseling, and telemedicine services. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on Oregon nurse workforce
- Importance of accessible mental health care for nurses

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

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 facility types that nurse staffing 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 due to industry growth. However, 2019 data from the state's nursing programs showed that only 1,555 newly graduated registered nurses were available to enter the workforce that year. The COVID-19 pandemic has added additional stress and burnout to Oregon's nurse workforce and exasperated the shortage that already existed.

House Bill 4003 A 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.