



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Board of Nursing

17938 SW Upper Boones Ferry Rd

Portland, OR 97224-7012

(971) 673-0685

Fax: (971) 673-0684

Oregon.BN.INFO@state.or.us

www.oregon.gov/OSBN

February 7, 2022

Before the
House Committee on Health Care

House Bill 4003

The Oregon State Board of Nursing wishes to submit informational testimony regarding House Bill 4003. The OSBN is neutral on the bill. The bill requires the Board of Nursing to create and issue nurse internship licenses to qualified nursing students. The bill also creates a nursing shortage advisory committee and expands the types of work settings for which a healthcare employer may request a temporary licensure exemption to meet staffing needs.

If HB 4003 passes, the OSBN will convene an administrative rule advisory committee and follow its standard rulemaking process regarding nurse interns. The board does not have authority to regulate employer hiring practices or job descriptions, but it can write administrative rule to describe the authorized duties of a nurse intern and the level of supervision that would be required by a licensed RN. The board could also create a definition(s) in rule of what would constitute conduct unbecoming a nurse intern.

HB 4003 also expands existing statute regarding the ability of a hospital and other healthcare settings to meet temporary staffing needs. Temporary license exemptions are limited in current statute to only a coronary care unit, intensive care unit, or emergency department. The change would allow hospitals to staff any unit that was experiencing a temporary staffing shortage.

Regarding the nursing shortage advisory committee, the OSBN stands ready to assist the committee as needed.

The board would be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding HB 4003.