

HB 2959 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Task Force on Health Care Services in Oregon Schools. Requires task force to examine the scope of practice and policies regarding scope of practice for licensed health care providers employed by schools, school districts, or education service districts, as well as possible systems for maintaining records of student health information. Permits task force to recommend legislation or changes to administrative rule. Requires task force to submit a report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2024. Takes effect on the 91st day after sine die.

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:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Licensed health care providers include school nurses as well as specialists such as occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, and physical therapists, and mental and health practitioners such as school counselors, psychologists, and social workers. Under ORS 342.455, a school nurse is "a registered nurse who is certified by the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission as qualified to conduct and coordinate the health services programs of a school." The scope of practice for each type of board-licensed provider is defined by their professional licensing board.

In 2007, House Bill 2773 established a task force to study the availability of nursing services in Oregon schools. House Bill 2693 (2009) created mandatory ratios for registered nurses and school nurses for medically fragile and nursing-dependent students, and required the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to submit an annual report on the availability of nurses in each district. Senate Bill 698 (2015) created a State School Nursing Consultant in the Oregon Health Authority, as well as a task force to examine sustainable funding sources to fund school health screenings and school nursing services.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Oregon Department of Education (ODE) each publish resources on the roles, responsibilities, and scope of practice for school nurses. ODE also publishes guidance on mental and behavioral health services and supports.

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