

## HB 2537 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

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**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 2/21

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and coordinated care organization (CCO) to pay reasonable per diem rate for patient enrolled in medical assistance program whose discharge from hospital is delayed due to circumstances beyond control of hospital. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

*FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.*

*REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.*

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

##### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

##### BACKGROUND:

Hospital patients commonly require additional care after discharge, such as skilled nursing care, behavioral health care, or therapy at home. Delays in discharge affect both the patient by impacting their ability to recovery and the hospital by impacting reimbursement and further straining workforce. As the COVID-19 pandemic has strained the entire health care system, delays in hospital discharge have become more common - a [2022 Issue Brief](#) by the American Hospital Association noted that the average length-of-stay in hospitals increased 19.2 percent in 2022 as compared to 2019, with the increase being more pronounced (24 percent) for patients being discharged to post-acute care providers. As patients wait for appropriate settings or supports for needed care after discharge, the reimbursement provided to hospitals often does not cover the staff and resources still required to care for the patient.

House Bill 2537 would require the Oregon Health Authority and coordinated care organizations to pay hospitals a reasonable per diem rate for Oregon Health Plan enrollees whose discharge is delayed due to circumstances beyond control of the hospital.