

SB 1079 -6, -7 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Daniel Dietz

Meeting Dates: 4/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Health Authority to study licensing requirements for hospitals and to submit a report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health no later than September 15, 2024.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-6 Replaces the measure. Establishes the Joint Task Force on Hospital Discharge Challenges (Task Force). Specifies criteria for 21 members, including representatives of hospital and post-acute care facilities and workers, along with two non-voting members of the Legislative Assembly. Directs the Task Force to develop recommendations to address challenges faced by hospitals in discharging patients to appropriate post-acute care settings. Specifies that recommendations may include reducing barriers to training and licensure for nurses and nursing assistants to work in post-acute care settings and improving connectivity between hospitals and post-acute care. Directs the Task Force to consider how recommendations relate to the needs of individuals who are experiencing homelessness or who lack stable housing. Directs the Legislative Policy and Research Office to review strategies in other states, and the gather and analyze data provided by hospitals, post-acute care settings, and local and state agencies. Directs the Task Force to provide recommendations for administrative changes that do not require legislative action to the Governor and to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health and human services on or before November 1, 2023. Directs the Task Force to make recommendations for legislative changes on or before December 1, 2023. Directs the Task Force to submit a final report with findings and recommendations on or before September 15, 2024. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

-7 Replaces the measure. Incorporates the changes proposed in SB 1079-6. Adds one additional member to the Task Force representing outpatient renal dialysis facilities.

BACKGROUND:

Beginning with the COVID-19 pandemic and continuing through April of 2023, Oregon hospitals have identified delays in discharge from inpatient care among the reasons why hospitals have operated at or above capacity ([link](#) to Lund Report article; [link](#) to Oregon Health Authority testimony). Reasons for delays in discharge are complex and multifaceted and may include the complexity of the physical and behavioral health care needs of patients, lack of appropriate settings to meet those needs, workforce shortages in post-acute care settings, and alignment of reimbursement models with care needs. Patients who experience homelessness or who lack stable housing may have different needs at the time they are discharged from acute and post-acute care.

Senate Bill 1079 directs the Oregon Health Authority to study licensing requirements for hospitals and to submit a report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health no later than September 15, 2024.