

**FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION****Measure: HB 2696**

82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2023 Regular Session

Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official*

Prepared by: MaryMichelle Sosne

Reviewed by: Steve Robbins

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**Measure Description:**

Authorizes Health Licensing Office to issue sign language interpreter license to qualified applicant.

**Government Unit(s) Affected:**

Oregon Health Authority

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

**Summary of Expenditure Impact:**

	2023-25 Biennium	2025-27 Biennium
<b>Oregon Health Authority</b>		
<b>Other Funds</b>		
Services and Supplies	\$100,100	\$81,100
<b>Total Other Funds</b>	\$100,100	\$81,100
<i>Total Positions</i>	0	0

**Summary of Revenue Impact:**

	2023-25 Biennium	2025-27 Biennium
<b>Oregon Health Authority</b>		
Other Funds	\$217,500	\$163,750

**Analysis:**

HB 2696 grants the Health Licensing Office (HLO) within the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to issue licenses for supervisory sign language interpretation, sign language interpreters, educational sign language interpreters, medical/legal sign language interpreters, and provisional licenses for sign language interpreters. The measure provides eligibility requirements for each license type. HB 2696 prohibits anyone without a license from providing interpretation services and clarifies exceptions. The measure establishes the State Board of Sign Language Interpreters and describes the board's composition, responsibilities, and service periods. HLO may enforce discipline in contested cases. HLO and the Department of Education are granted rulemaking authority to carry out the provisions of this act. Amendments to existing statute become operative January 1, 2024; the measure declares an emergency and is effective on passage. The total fiscal impact is \$100,100 Other Funds for 2023-25 and \$81,100 for 2025-27. Total revenue impact for the measure is \$217,500 Other Funds for the 2023-25 biennium and \$163,750 Other Funds for the 2023-25 biennium.

**Oregon Health Authority**

OHA estimates it will issue 400 new licenses for sign language interpretation services. HLO has provided the following anticipated fee structure:

	Application Fee	License Fee
Provisional License	\$75.00	\$100.00
Educational License	\$100.00	\$150.00
Generalist License	\$100.00	\$150.00
Supervisory License	\$150.00	\$200.00
Medical Endorsement	\$50.00	\$50.00
Legal Endorsement	\$50.00	\$50.00

HLO expects the following administrative fees:

License Replacement Fee	\$25.00
Late Fee- renewing an inactive license	\$40.00
Affidavit of licensure	\$50.00
NSF charge	\$25.00

Based on the above fee structure and the 400 anticipated licenses, the total revenue expected from these fees is \$217,500 for the 2023-2025 biennium.

The total cost for the new board is \$13,600 Other Funds per biennium and provides for board member compensation and sign language interpretation services. HLO shares administrative costs across all boards it oversees. The cost for this new board is \$40,000 Other Funds for 2023-25. For board related services and supplies, the cost is \$21,500 Other Funds for the 2023-25 biennium and includes publication of informational materials, supplies and equipment and other standard services and supplies costs. Also included is \$5,000 Other Funds for the 2023-25 biennium to contract with subject matter experts on sign language interpretation. HLO expects \$20,000 Other Funds to pay for legal fees related to guidance on program start up, rulemaking and other legal decisions. The total fiscal impact for the 2023-25 biennium is \$100,100 Other Funds.

The measure has no fiscal impact on the Department of Education.