

# House Bill 3517

Sponsored by Representative DEXTER

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Directs Oregon Health Authority to adopt rules to establish three-year harm reduction center pilot program to prevent opioid overdoses. Directs authority to establish harm reduction center pilot program advisory committee. Provides protection from civil and criminal liability for individuals and entities engaged in activities related to harm reduction centers. Requires harm reduction centers to submit annual progress reports to cities, counties and authority. Requires authority to submit final report to Legislative Assembly not later than September 15, 2028.

Sunset January 2, 2029.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to a harm reduction center pilot program; and prescribing an effective date.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:**

5 (a) **“Opioid” means a natural, synthetic or semisynthetic chemical that interacts with**  
6 **opioid receptors on nerve cells in the body and brain to reduce the intensity of pain signals**  
7 **and feelings of pain.**

8 (b) **“Opioid overdose” means a medical condition that causes depressed consciousness and**  
9 **mental functioning, decreased movement, depressed respiratory function and the impairment**  
10 **of vital functions as a result of ingesting opioids in an amount larger than can be physically**  
11 **tolerated.**

12 (2)(a) **The Oregon Health Authority shall adopt rules to establish a harm reduction center**  
13 **pilot program to prevent opioid overdoses. The harm reduction center pilot program must**  
14 **place harm reduction centers in at least two cities in this state.**

15 (b) **The harm reduction center pilot program shall operate for a period of three years**  
16 **beginning on the date that the harm reduction centers are operational. The three-year time**  
17 **period does not include the time prior to the harm reduction centers’ operation that is used**  
18 **to secure funding or for other work required to establish and prepare the harm reduction**  
19 **centers for operation.**

20 (3) **The authority shall establish a harm reduction center pilot program advisory com-**  
21 **mittee to advise and make recommendations to the authority. The advisory committee shall**  
22 **consist of 11 members appointed by the authority, as follows:**

23 (a) **The Governor or a designee of the Governor;**

24 (b) **The Attorney General or a designee of the Attorney General;**

25 (c) **A representative of the Oregon Medical Association or its successor organization;**

26 (d) **A representative of the authority;**

27 (e) **A representative of the local government of a city where a harm reduction center is**  
28 **located;**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (f) A representative of a local law enforcement agency of a city where a harm reduction  
2 center is located;

3 (g) A medical professional who specializes in addiction treatment;

4 (h) A representative of the Oregon Council for Behavioral Health or its successor or-  
5 ganization;

6 (i) A representative of the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems or its  
7 successor organization; and

8 (j) Two individuals who have lived experience of substance use.

9 (4) Individuals or entities, including but not limited to property owners, managers, em-  
10 ployees, volunteers, clients, participants and local or state government employees, engaged  
11 in activities related to a harm reduction center established under subsection (2) of this sec-  
12 tion and acting in good faith and in the scope and course of activities of the harm reduction  
13 center, are immune from civil and criminal liability for any act or omission of an act com-  
14 mitted while engaged as described in this subsection.

15 (5) A harm reduction center established under subsection (2) of this section shall annu-  
16 ally submit a harm reduction center progress report to the city and county in which the  
17 harm reduction center is located, and to the authority.

18 (6) Not later than September 15, 2028, the authority shall submit a final report, in the  
19 manner provided by ORS 192.245, that must include at least the information received under  
20 subsection (5) of this section, and that may include recommendations for legislation and re-  
21 newal of the harm reduction center pilot program, to the Legislative Assembly.

22 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this 2023 Act is repealed on January 2, 2029.

23 **SECTION 3.** (1) Section 1 of this 2023 Act becomes operative on January 1, 2024.

24 (2) The Oregon Health Authority may take any action before the operative date specified  
25 in subsection (1) of this section that is necessary to enable the authority to exercise, on and  
26 after the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section, all of the duties, functions  
27 and powers conferred on the authority by section 1 of this 2023 Act.

28 **SECTION 4.** This 2023 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2023  
29 regular session of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

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