

HB 4136 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 2/7, 2/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure makes changes to law regulating the use of nonresident and temporary nurses. It requires the Oregon Health Authority to enter an agreement with Lane County to help improve access to health care in the greater Eugene area. The measure requires the Health Authority to review access to urgent and immediate health care services and report to the legislature by September 15, 2024.

Detailed Summary

- **Nurse Licensure (Sections 1-4)**
 - Removes limitations on use of nonresident nurses
 - Clarifies notice that must be provided to Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN) when using temporary nurses
 - Requires OSBN to issue provisional license to application for licensure by indorsement
- **Lane County Access to Health Care (Section 5 - 7)**
 - Requires Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to enter agreement with Lane County Public Health for the distribution of funds to support a basic life support unit and innovation in same-day health care in the greater Eugene area
 - Specifies requirements to be included in agreement
 - Appropriates \$4.5 million to OHA
 - Sunsets January 2, 2026
- **Oregon Health Authority Review**
 - Requires OHA to review access to urgent and immediate health care services in the state and deliver report to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2024
 - Sunsets January 2, 2025

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impacts of Eugene hospital closure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Clarifies required elements of agreement between OHA and Lane County Public Health. Specifies purposes fund appropriation. Removes requirement for OHA to review and report on access to health care services.

BACKGROUND:

In August 2023, PeaceHealth announced the closure of its hospital in Eugene, with the emergency department and inpatient rehabilitation units closing in December. For the nearly 200,000 residents of Eugene, the closure means the nearest hospital is the one operated by PeaceHealth in Springfield.