

SB 1506 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Rep. Javadi**House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care****Action Date:** 02/26/24**Action:** Do Pass the A-Eng bill.**Vote:** 11-0-0-0**Yeas:** 11 - Bowman, Conrad, Dexter, Diehl, Goodwin, Javadi, Nelson, Nosse, Pham H, Tran, Yunker**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Brian Nieubuurt, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 2/26**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure permits pharmacists to test for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and prescribe, dispense, and administer treatment, including drug therapy, for SARS-CoV-2. It also requires the Oregon Health Plan, health insurers, the Public Employees' Benefit Board (PEBB), and Oregon Educators Benefit Board (OEBB) to reimburse for testing, treatment, and pharmacist services. The measure sunsets the permission to test and treat on June 30, 2026.

Detailed Summary

Permits pharmacists to test and treat for SARS-CoV-2 consistent with protocols to be adopted by the State Board of Pharmacy and recommended by the Public Health and Pharmacy Formulary Advisory Committee. Specifies test requirements. Permits pharmacists to delegate to a pharmacy technician or an intern under the pharmacist's supervision the administrative and technical tasks of testing. Requires OHP, health insurers, PEBB, and OEBB to reimburse for testing, treatment, and pharmacist services. Sunsets test and treat permission on June 30, 2026.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Authority for pharmacists to test for COVID-19 under the federal PREP Act
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC) study on beneficial impacts of federal test to treat authority

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

As part of the COVID-19 Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act), pharmacists were granted immunity from liability in the administration of COVID-19 tests and treatments. In March 2022, the Biden-Harris Administration launched a nationwide [Test to Treat initiative](#) aimed at promoting quick access to COVID-19 treatments. These federal authorities are currently set to expire at the end of 2024.