

# A-Engrossed Senate Bill 1578

Ordered by the Senate February 15  
Including Senate Amendments dated February 15

Sponsored by Senator MANNING JR, Representatives NELSON, DEXTER, Senator GORSEK; Senators CAMPOS, DEMBROW, FREDERICK, JAMA, Representatives BYNUM, CHAICHI, GAMBA, GRAYBER, HARTMAN, LIVELY, MARSH, NOSSE, PHAM H, REYNOLDS, RUIZ, SOSA (at the request of Lamar Wise, AFSCME) (Presession filed.)

## 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. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

**Digest: The Act directs the OHA to set up a health care interpreter management system. The Act requires the OHA to contract with a nonprofit entity to establish a recruitment and retention program. The Act sets out certain requirements for the nonprofit. The Act requires the nonprofit to submit a report to the OHA each year. The Act requires the OHA to seek out all means to get federal matching funds to pay costs of health care interpreter services. The Act goes into effect 91 days after the session ends. (Flesch Readability Score: 60.6).**

*[Digest: The Act directs the OHA to set up a health care interpreter management system. The Act requires the OHA to contract with a nonprofit entity to manage the system. The Act sets out certain requirements for the nonprofit. The Act requires the nonprofit to submit a report to the OHA each year. (Flesch Readability Score: 60.2).]*

Directs the Oregon Health Authority to establish and maintain an online portal with the functionality to provide online scheduling for health care providers and coordinated care organizations to use to contact health care interpreters directly and to process billing. Requires the authority to contract with a nonprofit entity to *[administer the portal]* **develop and administer a health care interpreter recruitment and retention program.** Provides criteria and reporting requirements that the contracting nonprofit must meet. **Requires the authority to seek any federal funding available for costs of reimbursing health care interpreters for health care interpretation services provided to medical assistance recipients no later than January 1, 2025.**  
**Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.**

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to health care interpreters; and prescribing an effective date.

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

4 **SECTION 1. Sections 2 and 3 of this 2024 Act are added to and made a part of ORS 413.550**  
5 **to 413.559.**

6 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section and section 3 of this 2024 Act:**

7 (a) **“Interpreter management system” means an online portal that meets the require-**  
8 **ments under subsection (3) of this section.**

9 (b) **“Nonprofit entity” means an organization that:**

10 (A) **Is registered in this state;**

11 (B) **Is exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; and**

12 (C) **Works with certified and qualified health care interpreters and individuals from im-**  
13 **migrant, refugee, low-income and rural communities and representatives of urban and rural**  
14 **regional councils of government.**

15 (2)(a) **For purposes of improving access to certified and qualified health care interpreters,**  
16 **the Oregon Health Authority shall establish and maintain an interpreter management system**

**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 that has the functionality to meet the requirements described under subsection (3) of this  
2 section.

3 (b) If a software program is available for purchase that is appropriate for the interpreter  
4 management system, the authority may contract with the vendor of the software program  
5 in lieu of creating a new software program.

6 (3) The interpreter management system shall have the capability to:

7 (a) Provide an online scheduling mechanism that health care providers, including coor-  
8 dinated care organizations, may use to directly schedule appointments with certified and  
9 qualified health care interpreters; and

10 (b) Process billing and payments for health care interpreter services scheduled through  
11 the interpreter management system.

12 **SECTION 3.** (1)(a) The Oregon Health Authority shall enter into a contract with a  
13 nonprofit entity to develop and administer a health care interpreter recruitment and re-  
14 tention program. The purpose of the program is to recruit individuals to become trained as  
15 qualified and certified health care interpreters and to promote retention of certified health  
16 care interpreters within the health care interpreter profession.

17 (b) The nonprofit entity contracting with the authority must meet, at a minimum, the  
18 following requirements and standards:

19 (A) The ability to directly contact qualified and certified health care interpreters to fill  
20 empty appointment slots and last-minute cancellations by scheduling appointments through  
21 the interpreter management system described under section 2 of this 2024 Act, or otherwise.

22 (B) Providing information, in consultation with the Oregon Health Authority, to health  
23 care interpreters regarding the health care interpreter qualification and certification stan-  
24 dards established by the authority.

25 (C) Informing health care interpreters of training and professional development oppor-  
26 tunities, made available through the nonprofit entity or otherwise, that are in accordance  
27 with standards adopted by the Oregon Health Authority under ORS 413.558.

28 (2) A nonprofit entity that contracts and consults with the Oregon Health Authority  
29 under subsection (1) of this section shall report annually to the authority on the:

30 (a) Amount of moneys received from the authority that were applied toward providing  
31 training and recruitment of health care interpreters, if any;

32 (b) Health care interpreter training provided by the nonprofit entity, if any;

33 (c) Outreach and recruitment efforts directed toward certified and qualified health care  
34 interpreters that the nonprofit entity has provided or plans to provide; and

35 (d) The fill rates of appointments scheduled through the interpreter management system  
36 described under section 2 of this 2024 Act.

37 **SECTION 4.** Not later than January 1, 2025, the Oregon Health Authority shall take all  
38 steps necessary to secure federal financial participation in the costs of directly reimbursing  
39 health care interpreters for health care interpretation services provided to medical assist-  
40 ance recipients.

41 **SECTION 5.** This 2024 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2024  
42 regular session of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

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