

HB 3221 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 1/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure defines an urgent care center and requires all urgent care centers operating within Oregon to register with the Oregon Health Authority.

Detailed Summary

- Requires any person or governmental entity establishing or operating an urgent care center within Oregon to register the center with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).
- Defines an "urgent care center" as a facility, or part of a facility, that offers walk-in medical care to members of the public for acute, non-life-threatening issues that do not otherwise require emergency services. Prohibits urgent care centers from using "emergency" or other similar terms in the center's name, list of services, or advertisements. Establishes a minimum standard for on-site services that an urgent care center must provide.
- Directs OHA to create a process for registering urgent care centers and specifies minimum information that must be captured in the registry. Directs OHA to maintain a public-facing website with information on urgent care centers registered in Oregon. Directs the OHA to adopt processes for filing confidential complaints against an urgent care center.
- Directs the OHA to conduct a study on incentivizing urgent care centers to accept all patients regardless of payor and submit recommendations to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2026.

Fiscal impact: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

Revenue impact: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Individuals may access health care services in different ways depending on the severity of their illness or injury. Where an emergency room provides services for sudden and potentially life-threatening situations, urgent care facilities offer services for acute illness or injury that does not rise to the level of needing emergency services but cannot wait for an appointment with a primary care provider. Given that wait times for emergency room services may be long, urgent care centers can offer a more expedient alternative when used appropriately.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is responsible for the regulation and licensing of certain, non-long term health care facilities. In addition, OHA maintains publicly available resources about these facilities.

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