

SB 693 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure establishes the Task Force on the Perinatal Workforce. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

Detailed Summary:

Directs the Oregon Health Authority, in collaboration with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, to appoint a task force of no fewer than 12 members. Specifies the task force will:

- Evaluate the perinatal workforce in health care and behavioral health settings.
- Identify barriers to accessing perinatal workforce pathways.
- Review programs that increase the access to and diversity of the perinatal workforce.
- Develop recommendations for the Legislative Assembly and relevant state agencies.

Requires the Oregon Health Authority to provide staff support. Requires the task force to submit an interim report to the Legislative Assembly by December 1, 2026. Sunsets December 31, 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:

Perinatal health care, or maternal child health care, includes services provided by midwives, family physicians, and obstetricians, along with other health care professionals. In 2024, Oregon had an estimated 1,589 direct patient care full-time equivalency of all maternal child health professionals ([Oregon's Licensed Health Care Workforce Supply](#), 2024). Data from 2023 show that 19.2% of pregnant people in Oregon accessed prenatal care in the second or third trimester of pregnancy or not at all. Data also show that 6.7% of mothers received inadequate prenatal care ([Oregon Health Authority Birth and Pregnancy Dashboards](#)). All birthing hospitals in Oregon reported staffing issues as a concern, with more difficulty in rural areas ([Report on Oregon's Birthing Hospitals](#), 2024).

Senate Bill 693 establishes the Task Force on the Perinatal Workforce to evaluate the perinatal health care and behavioral health workforce and to develop recommendations to strengthen the perinatal workforce in the state.