

HB 3554 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: 3/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to establish a primary care provider loan repayment program to provide loan repayment subsidies to primary care providers working in areas determined to have a primary care provider shortage, establishes the Primary Care Incentive Fund within the state treasury, and requires OHA to study the suspension of the health care practitioner centralized credentialing system.

Detailed Summary

- Directs OHA to establish a primary care provider loan repayment program to provide loan repayment subsidies for primary care providers who meet specific criteria, including serving patients in urban and suburban areas determined by OHA to have a primary care provider shortage; and who work for a practice that meets eligibility requirements.
- Specifies eligibility criteria for a primary care practice.
- Directs OHA to provide low-interest loans to primary care practices to support implementation and upgrading of electronic health record systems.
- Establishes the Primary Care Incentive Fund within the State Treasury. Specifies that OHA may receive financial contributions from any source and that all funds received will be deposited into the Primary Care Incentive Fund.
- Directs OHA and the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) to establish an online reporting portal for health outcome and quality measures. Specifies portal requirements. Stipulates that a coordinated care organization may not require a provider to report data using a second system beyond the portal. Requires OHA and DCBS to submit a report on the implementation of online reporting portal to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health by September 15, 2026.
- Directs OHA to study the suspension of the health care practitioner centralized credentialing system. Specifies what must be included in the study. Requires OHA to report on study findings to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health 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:

House Bill 3261 ([2017](#)) established the Health Care Provider Incentive Fund within the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) which created the Health Care Provider Incentive Program (HCPIP) to offer incentives to providers who commit to serving patients in Oregon's underserved areas. The [HCPIP](#) is comprised of several programs, including the Health Care Provider Incentive Loan Repayment Program ([HCPLR](#)) and Primary Care Loan Forgiveness ([PCLF](#)).

The HCPLR program offers loan repayment funds to providers who meet specific criteria and provide services at a qualifying practice site for at least three years. The PCLF program currently incentivizes primary care providers to

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practice in rural Oregon by offering forgivable loans to cover one or more years of tuition and fees in a health care education program. PCLF awards may not exceed the highest resident tuition rates of Oregon's publicly funded health professional training programs and students must commit to begin their primary care practice at an approved rural Oregon practice site within 90 days of graduation or medical residency.

House Bill 3554 directs the Oregon Health Authority to establish a primary care provider loan repayment program to provide loan repayment subsidies to primary care providers working in areas determined to have a primary care provider shortage, establishes the Primary Care Incentive Fund within the state treasury, and requires OHA to study the suspension of the health care practitioner centralized credentialing system.