HB 2423 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/12, 3/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure establishes the Task Force on Licensed Health Care Services in Oregon Schools, as well as the Task Force's membership, responsibilities, and operating procedures. It requires the Task Force to examine working conditions and technologies used by licensed health care providers employed by schools, school districts, or education service districts. The measure requires the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to provide staff support to the Task Force, and requires the Task Force to submit a report to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2026. The measure takes effect on the 91st day after adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Role of school health professionals
- Need for clarity in licensing
- Potential amendment in process

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 The amendment adds five additional members to the task force and inserts consultation requirements to the task force's responsibility for studying electronic health records.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon schools provide a variety of health-related services to students. Some students with disabilities receive treatment from physical therapists, occupational therapists, or school psychologists. According to a <u>report by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA)</u>, in 2024, Oregon had 85 state-certified school-based health centers providing health services to students. OHA administers the certification program for SBHCs as well as the School Based Health Services Medicaid program. The Oregon Department of Education (ODE), in partnership with OHA, support school districts' efforts to bill Medicaid for eligible students and services.

In 2023, the legislature enacted <u>House Bill 2618</u>, which required ODE to establish a metric by which schools could measure the workload of school health professionals. <u>ODE's report</u> studied the work of school health professionals and recommended use of North Carolina's metric.