

SB 295 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Prepared By: Katie Hart, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/25, 3/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure allows a pharmacist to assess, diagnose, and treat certain health conditions as permitted by a specified advisory committee within Oregon's Board of Pharmacy.

Detailed Summary:

Permits the Board Pharmacy's Public Health and Pharmacy Formulary Advisory Committee to develop and maintain a publicly available list of conditions that are generally minor or self-limiting or that are deemed to be in the best interest of the public to be assessed, diagnosed, and treated by a pharmacist. Allows a pharmacist to assess, diagnose, and treat these conditions or conditions that can be treated by non-prescription drugs. Authorizes pharmacists to prescribe and dispense certain prescription drugs and devices within their scope of practice.

Fiscal impact: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue impact: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces the measure. Repeals the sunset on provision allowing pharmacists to test for and treat COVID-19.

BACKGROUND:

The practice of pharmacy is regulated by the Oregon Board of Pharmacy consistent with Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) Chapter 689. In Oregon, pharmacists may verify dosage on medications prescribed by health care providers, prepare prescriptions according to prescriber instructions, determine whether a particular medication will interact with other medications used by the patient, verify that the patient is not at risk of adverse reactions caused by a prescription, educate patients about how and when to take or administer the prescription, advise patients about potential side effects of medication, and administer various vaccinations. ORS 689 does not permit pharmacists to diagnose medical conditions or prescribe treatment, except as allowed by Senate Bill 1506 (2024) for the treatment of SARS-CoV-2. The [2025 Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education Standards](#), which set standards for pharmacy education, including Oregon's pharmacy education programs, provide for diagnosing and prescribing within the training and scope of practice for pharmacists.

Until October 1, 2024, pharmacists in Oregon were permitted to test and treat SARS-CoV-2 under [federal authority](#). [Senate Bill 1506 \(2024\)](#) extended this permission in Oregon through June 30, 2026. Pharmacists in Oregon will no longer be able to test and treat SARS-CoV-2 once state authority expires.

Senate Bill 295 -1 allows pharmacists to continue to test for and treat COVID-19.