

SB 837 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/18, 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure allows the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to activate the State Emergency Registry of Volunteers in Oregon (SERV-OR) without an emergency declaration and allows certain non-licensed volunteers to join.

Detailed Summary:

- Defines "health care worker," including both licensed and non-licensed professionals. Allows non-licensed workers and other health care personnel to register through SERV-OR and respond in emergency or crisis.
- Permits OHA to require SERV-OR volunteers to undergo specified screening to collect baseline information and support appropriate assignment and interpretation of post-deployment effects.
- Transfers the authority to activate SERV-OR volunteers from the Office of the Governor to the Office of the State Public Health Director. Allows SERV-OR volunteers to provide health care and supportive services without a declared state of emergency.
- Permits OHA to designate all or part of a health care facility as a temporary public health center without a declared state of emergency.

Fiscal impact: Minimal fiscal impact

Revenue impact: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces the measure.

- Replaces the term "other health care personnel" with "support and administrative personnel."
- Removes the authority of OHA to activate SERV-OR volunteers without a Governor-declared state of emergency.
- Removes the designation of a "temporary public health center."
- Defines SERV-OR volunteers as agents of the state for purposes of liability.

BACKGROUND:

The State Emergency Registry of Volunteers in Oregon (SERV-OR), established in [ORS 401.654](#), is Oregon's roster of licensed health care professionals who have registered to volunteer in response to a declared local, state, and/or federal emergency as defined in [ORS 401.165](#) and [ORS 431A.015](#). Joining the registry allows licensed health care workers to join certain state and local volunteer groups to respond in a declared emergency or crisis.

Senate Bill 837 allows non-licensed health care workers and other health personnel to register with SERV-OR and permits the Oregon Health Authority to activate volunteers without a declared state of emergency.