HB 2940 -1 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:	3/25, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure establishes the Task Force on Hemoglobinopathies and Sickle Cell Disease to develop and establish a statewide protocol for assessing and treating individuals with hemoglobinopathies, including sickle cell disease. It specifies membership of the Task Force and requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to provide staff support. The measure repeals the Task Force on December 31, 2026. It takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Pain and other physical impacts of sickle cell disease and other hemoglobinopathies.
- Importance of access to specialists for patients with hemoglobinopathies.
- Current real-time alert systems used by hospitals.

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 **Replaces the measure**.

- Subject to the availability of funds, requires OHA to implement a program by May 1, 2026 to provide emergency departments with real time notifications identifying patient with hemoglobinopathies and how to contact a hematologist.
- Requires OHA to consult with specified stakeholders when developing the program; permits participation by a member of the Legislative Assembly or a legislative staff member.
- Requires OHA to deliver a report the Legislative Assembly by March 1, 2026.
- Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

BACKGROUND:

Hemoglobin is a protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen to the body's organs and tissues. Low hemoglobin levels can lead to anemia, resulting in tiredness, weakness, and shortness of breath. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), hemoglobinopathies are a group of inherited disorders in which there is abnormal production or structure of the hemoglobin molecule. Sickle cell disease is a hemoglobinopathy caused by abnormal hemoglobin that damages and deforms red blood cells. The abnormal red blood cells break and obstruct blood vessels, leading to recurrent severe pain and multi-organ damage. Sickle cell disease is particularly common among people whose ancestors come from sub-Saharan Africa, regions in the Western Hemisphere (South America, the Caribbean, and Central America); Saudi Arabia; India; and Mediterranean countries such as Turkey, Greece and Italy.

House Bill 2940 establishes the Task Force on Hemoglobinopathies and Sickle Cell Disease to develop and establish a statewide protocol for assessing and treating individuals with hemoglobinopathies, including sickle cell disease.