

HB 3221 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Prepared By: Alexandra Kihn-Stang, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 1/28, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure defines an urgent care center and requires all urgent care centers operating within Oregon to register with the Oregon Health Authority.

Detailed Summary

- Requires any person or governmental entity establishing or operating an urgent care center within Oregon to register the center with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).
- Defines an "urgent care center" as a facility, or part of a facility, that offers walk-in medical care to members of the public for acute, non-life-threatening issues that do not otherwise require emergency services. Prohibits urgent care centers from using "emergency" or other similar terms in the center's name, list of services, or advertisements. Establishes a minimum standard for on-site services that an urgent care center must provide.
- Directs OHA to create a process for registering urgent care centers and specifies minimum information that must be captured in the registry. Directs OHA to maintain a public-facing website with information on urgent care centers registered in Oregon. Directs the OHA to adopt processes for filing confidential complaints against an urgent care center.
- Directs the OHA to conduct a study on incentivizing urgent care centers to accept all patients regardless of payor and submit recommendations to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2026.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The lack of state regulation and definition and need for standardization of urgent care facilities and services provided
- Lack of access to primary care services increase reliance on emergency and urgent care services
- Reasons for use of an urgent care facility vs an emergency department
- Rationale for requiring sharing of notes from an urgent care facility with a patient
- Potential implications of requiring urgent care facilities to register with OHA
- Potential uses of OHA urgent care registry and reason for housing registry at OHA

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 **Replaces the measure.** Defines urgent and specialty urgent care center. Prohibits the use of "urgent" and "urgent care" by an entity not registered with OHA except in some situations. Directs OHA to use rule to adopt a process, criteria, and fee for registering an urgent care center. Specifies that a facility providing urgent care services is not required to register with OHA in certain situations. Requires an urgent care center registered with OHA to offer certain services and meet certain requirements. Specifies that if an urgent care center refers a patient to an emergency department (ED) that the center shall provide the ED with certain patient records. Prohibits use of "emergency" or derivative terms. Directs OHA to establish and maintain a publicly available website to host the urgent care registry.

Detailed Summary

- Defines an "urgent care center" and "specialty urgent care center."
- Prohibits the use of "urgent" and "urgent care" by a person or government entity within the state of Oregon where the entity is not registered as an urgent care facility with OHA . Creates an exception for a specialty urgent care center providing specialty medical care.
- Directs OHA to adopt a process and criteria through rule for registering an urgent care center. Requires a registered urgent care facility to meet certain requirements and provide certain information to OHA for the purpose of maintaining the registry and specifies requirements on providing information. Directs OHA to use rule to prescribe a fee for registering as an urgent care center that may not exceed OHA's administrative costs related to the registry.
 - Specifies that a facility providing urgent care services is not required to register with OHA in certain situations.
- Requires a registered urgent care center to offer certain services and meet certain requirements. Specifies that if an urgent care center refers a patient to an emergency department (ED) that the center shall provide the ED with certain patient records via providing a physical copy to the patient or another immediate means of transmission.
- Prohibits a registered urgent care center from using the term "emergency" or any derivative.
- Requires a registered urgent care center to make information provided to the registry publicly available and specifies rules for posting information.
- Directs OHA to establish and maintain a publicly available website to host the urgent care registry and specifies the purpose of the website.
- Becomes effective on the 91st day following adjournment sine die, becomes operative on January 1, 2026.

Fiscal impact: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue impact: No revenue impact

BACKGROUND:

Individuals may access health care services in different ways depending on the severity of their illness or injury. Where an emergency room provides services for sudden and potentially life-threatening situations, urgent care facilities offer services for acute illness or injury that does not rise to the level of needing emergency services but cannot wait for an appointment with a primary care provider. Given that wait times for emergency room services may be long, urgent care centers can offer a more expedient alternative when used appropriately.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is responsible for the regulation and licensing of certain, non-long term health care facilities. In addition, OHA maintains publicly available resources about these facilities.

House Bill 3221 defines an urgent care center and requires all urgent care centers operating within Oregon to registered with the Oregon Health Authority.