

SB 834 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Prepared By: Brian Nieubuert, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure modifies standards for certain aspects of care delivered at the Oregon State Hospital (OSH).

Detailed Summary:

- Prohibits OSH from providing care or treatment to patients under 18 years of age.
- Adds psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners as providers who may determine if a patient qualifies for an “extremely dangerous” civil commitment.
- Separates the roles of chief medical officer and superintendent at the OSH, even if the superintendent is a physician.
- Requires that initial patient evaluations must be performed by a certified evaluator.
- Replaces the term “symptomology” with the term “symptomatology.”

Senate Vote: Ayes, 20; Nays, 7

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon State Hospital (OSH) is established in [ORS 426.101](#) and provides psychiatric treatment for adults throughout the state who need hospital-level care. OSH treats people who have been civilly committed to the institution, who have been found by the courts to be Guilty Except for Insanity (GEI), or who are under an aid and assist order. [ORS 161.370](#) and [ORS 161.290](#) provide definitions and processes for civil commitment, GEI, and aid and assist.

Senate Bill 834 prohibits minors from receiving care at the Oregon State Hospital, allows psychiatric nurse practitioners to determine if a patient meets requirements for “extremely dangerous” civil commitment, separates the roles of hospital superintendent and chief medical officer, requires patient evaluations be conducted by a certified evaluator, and replaces the term “symptomology” with the term “symptomatology.”