

SB 295 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 4/24, 5/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure repeals the sunset on the provision allowing pharmacists to test for and treat COVID-19.

Fiscal impact: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue impact: No revenue impact

SENATE VOTE: Ayes, 24; Nays, 5

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Pharmacist test to treat work group
- Federal test to treat regulations
- Frequency of COVID-19 testing

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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. The [2025 Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education Standards](#), which set standards for pharmacy education provide for diagnosing and prescribing within the training and scope of practice for pharmacists.

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

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