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## JOINT COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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**To:** Human Services Subcommittee  
**From:** Chelsey Herrmann, Legislative Fiscal Office  
**Date:** June 11, 2025  
**Subject:** SB 537 – Relating to violence in health care settings  
Work Session Recommendations

SB 537 introduces new safety requirements for health care employers to strengthen workplace violence prevention and response efforts. The measure requires health care employers to collaborate with their workplace safety committees when developing a comprehensive safety program and while conducting security and safety assessments. Workplace violence protection programs are also required to include a detailed prevention and response plan, annual training, assessments with specific reporting requirements, trauma counseling, internal investigations and first aid or medical care procedures.

Additionally, the measure requires the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) to adopt rules to establish how workplace violence is investigated, documented, and reported. DCBS must submit an annual report on workplace assaults and recommendations to the Legislature by December 31 and the Oregon State Hospital (OSH) is exempt from reporting on the frequency of attempted workplace violence incidents from the preceding five years.

Lastly, the measure makes additional safety requirements including the use of flagging systems, updated client intake procedures, and requiring a bullet resistant barrier or enclosure at each emergency department intake window. Home health care employers are required to provide nationally endorsed safety training, conduct quarterly assessments, provide identifying client information, and establish policies and procedures for safety and security procedures.

There are two recommended amendments to the measure:

- The -A7 amendment makes adjustments to language and excludes the Oregon State Hospital from the definition of “hospital” as it relates to the measure.

- The -A8 amendment adds budget authority for the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). General Fund is increased for OHA by \$394,554 to ensure health care facilities comply with state and federal building and safety requirements under provisions of this 2025 Act.

### **-A7 Amendment**

LFO recommends adoption of the –A7 amendment.

**MOTION:** I move adoption of the –A7 amendment to SB 537. *(vote)*

### **-A8 Amendment**

LFO recommends adoption of the –A8 amendment.

**MOTION:** I move adoption of the –A8 amendment to SB 537. *(vote)*

### **Final Subcommittee Action**

LFO recommends that SB 296, as amended by the –A7 and –A8 amendment, be moved to the Ways and Means Full Committee.

**MOTION:** I move SB 537, as amended, to the Full Committee with a do pass recommendation. *(vote)*

### **Carriers**

Full Committee:

House Floor:

Senate Floor: