

HB 3221 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Action Date: 04/03/25

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 8-1-0-0

Yeas: 8 - Harbick, Isadore, Javadi, McIntire, Munoz, Nelson, Nosse, Pham H

Nays: 1 - Diehl

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Alexandra Kihn-Stang, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 1/28, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure defines urgent care centers and allows all urgent care centers operating within Oregon to register with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), establishes a minimum standard for on-site services that an urgent care center must provide, and directs OHA to maintain a website to provide public information about registered urgent care centers.

Detailed Summary

- Defines "urgent care center" and "specialty urgent care center."
- Establishes a minimum standard for on-site services that an urgent care center must provide.
- Allows any person or governmental entity establishing or operating an urgent care center within Oregon to register the center with the OHA. Directs OHA to create a process for registering urgent care centers and specifies minimum information that must be captured in the application to register. Directs OHA to adopt a fee for registering an urgent care center through rule which may not exceed administrative costs for the registry.
 - Requires a registered urgent care center to post certain information required by the registry at the public entrance to the facility.
 - Prohibits a registered urgent care center from using "emergency" or other similar terms in the center's name, list of services, or advertisements.
 - Prohibits a person or government entity that is not registered as an urgent care center with OHA from using the terms "urgent" or "urgent care" in its name, signage, or advertisements; provision excludes specialty urgent care centers.
 - Directs OHA to maintain a public-facing website with information on registered urgent care centers registered and specifies the intended purpose of the website.
 - Requires a registered urgent care center to provide encounter notes to an emergency department (ED) when a patient is referred to an ED. Specifies the way that encounter notes will be supplied to the ED.
- Becomes operative on January 1, 2026. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

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

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- Potential uses of OHA urgent care registry and reason for housing registry at OHA

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment replaces the measure.

Detailed Summary

- Defines a "specialty urgent care center."
- Clarifies that a specialty urgent care center providing specialty medical care may use the terms "urgent" or "urgent care" without registering with OHA.
- Specifies that a facility providing urgent care services is not required to register with OHA in certain situations.
- Qualifies requirement that an urgent care center provide encounter notes to a patient to apply when an urgent care center refers a patient to an emergency department (ED).
- Requires a registered urgent care center to make information provided to the registry publicly available and specifies rules for posting information.
- Specifies the intended purpose of the registry website maintained by OHA.
- Removes the provision directing OHA to establish complaint procedures.
- Removes the provision requiring OHA to study of incentives for urgent care centers to accept all patients regardless of payor.

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 A defines urgent care centers and allows all urgent care centers operating within Oregon to register with OHA, establishes a minimum standard of on-site services that an urgent care center must provide, and directs OHA to maintain a website to provide public information about registered urgent care centers.