HB 2940 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Nelson

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Action Date:	04/08/25
Action:	Do pass with amendments and rescind subsequent referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)
Vote:	8-0-1-0
Yeas:	8 - Diehl, Harbick, Isadore, McIntire, Munoz, Nelson, Nosse, Pham H
Exc:	1 - Javadi
Fiscal:	Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue:	No revenue impact
Prepared By:	Brian Nieubuurt, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates:	3/25, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Oregon Health Authority, subject to the availability of funds, to implement a program to provide real time notifications in hospital emergency departments that identify patients with hemoglobinopathies and provide information on how to contact a hematologist.

Detailed Summary:

- Requires OHA to consult with specified stakeholders when developing the program; permits participation by a member of the Legislative Assembly or a legislative staff member.
- Requires OHA to deliver a report the Legislative Assembly by March 1, 2026.
- Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Pain and other physical impacts of sickle cell disease and other hemoglobinopathies
- Importance of access to specialists for patients with hemoglobinopathies
- Current real-time alert systems used by hospitals

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Hemoglobin is a protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen to the body's organs and tissues. Low hemoglobin levels can lead to anemia, resulting in tiredness, weakness, and shortness of breath. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), hemoglobinopathies are a group of inherited disorders in which there is abnormal production or structure of the hemoglobin molecule. Sickle cell disease is a hemoglobinopathy caused by abnormal hemoglobin that damages and deforms red blood cells. The abnormal red blood cells break and obstruct blood vessels, leading to recurrent severe pain and multi-organ damage. Sickle cell disease is particularly common among people whose ancestors come from sub-Saharan Africa, regions in the Western Hemisphere (South America, the Caribbean, and Central America); Saudi Arabia; India; and Mediterranean countries such as Turkey, Greece and Italy.

House Bill 2940 A requires the Oregon Health Authority, subject to the availability of funds, to implement a program to provide real time notifications in hospital emergency departments that identify patients with hemoglobinopathies and provide information on how to contact a hematologist.