

# Senate Bill 935

Sponsored by Senator LIEBER

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act extends the deadlines for a task force to report back to the legislature. (Flesch Readability Score: 73.1).

Extends the dates by which the Joint Task Force on Regional Behavioral Health Accountability must provide draft recommendations and submit a final report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health. Extends the sunset date for the task force.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to the Joint Task Force on Regional Behavioral Health Accountability; amending sections  
3 16 and 17, chapter 70, Oregon Laws 2024; and declaring an emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 16, chapter 70, Oregon Laws 2024, is amended to read:

6 **Sec. 16.** (1) The Joint Task Force on Regional Behavioral Health Accountability is established  
7 to make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly to improve the governance of behavioral  
8 health systems and strengthen evidence-based and equitable funding decisions and accountability of  
9 behavioral health systems.

10 (2) The task force consists of 26 members appointed as follows:

11 (a) The President of the Senate shall appoint two members from among members of the Senate,  
12 one from the majority party and one from the minority party.

13 (b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members from among mem-  
14 bers of the House of Representatives, one from the majority party and one from the minority party.

15 (c) The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall appoint one member from the Judicial De-  
16 partment.

17 (d) The Governor shall appoint 21 members as follows:

18 (A) One member representing the Oregon Health Authority;

19 (B) One member representing the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission;

20 (C) One member representing the Department of Human Services;

21 (D) One member representing coordinated care organizations;

22 (E) One member representing providers of psychiatric care in clinical settings;

23 (F) One member representing Oregon counties;

24 (G) One member representing Oregon cities;

25 (H) One member who provides county mental health services or who represents county mental  
26 health providers;

27 (I) One member from a large labor organization representing behavioral health workers;

28 (J) One member who is a behavioral health provider or who represents private and nonprofit

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 behavioral health providers;

2 (K) One member who provides nonprofit substance use disorder treatment or who represents  
3 nonprofit substance use disorder treatment providers;

4 (L) One member from a large labor organization representing nurses;

5 (M) One member who is a licensed doctor or who represents licensed doctors with experience  
6 in behavioral health or substance use disorder treatment programs, care delivery or funding;

7 (N) One member from a business coalition representing the hospital industry;

8 (O) One member from a business coalition representing the insurance industry;

9 (P) One member from a business coalition representing pharmacists;

10 (Q) One member representing a consumer of behavioral health services;

11 (R) One member with extensive experience in Oregon Indian tribes and a deep understanding  
12 of Oregon's rural and urban tribal populations, appointed after consultation with the Commission  
13 on Indian Services;

14 (S) One member who is an emergency response transportation provider;

15 (T) One member representing long term care facilities; and

16 (U) One member with experience in regional behavioral health system governance.

17 (3) The task force, in collaboration with any other task forces that are charged with scopes of  
18 work that overlap or intersect with the charges of the Joint Task Force on Regional Behavioral  
19 Health Accountability, shall develop recommendations to:

20 (a) Improve collaboration and accountability across federal, state and local behavioral health  
21 and substance use disorder treatment programs and funding;

22 (b) Ensure equitable outcomes in publicly supported treatment settings across Oregon commu-  
23 nities;

24 (c) Provide greater cost efficiencies in the continuum of care of Oregon's behavioral health  
25 system; and

26 (d) Establish broad access to methadone and other opioid use disorder medications through mo-  
27 bile devices, telehealth and pharmacy-based services to measurably increase the engagement state-  
28 wide of individuals with opioid use disorder in opioid use disorder treatment.

29 (4) Recommendations developed under subsection (3) of this section should include:

30 (a) Any statutory changes needed to ensure that federal, state and local funds are being spent  
31 to maximize outcomes and resource efficiency;

32 (b) Policy changes recommended based on a comparative analysis of policies in other states that  
33 spend less on treatment but demonstrate better behavioral health and substance use disorder treat-  
34 ment outcomes, including better outcomes for groups that are disproportionately impacted by health  
35 inequities; and

36 (c) Any governance changes that would facilitate greater alignment of spending decisions be-  
37 tween federal, state and local behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment programs.

38 (5) A majority of the voting members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction  
39 of business.

40 (6) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the voting members  
41 of the task force.

42 (7) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.

43 (8) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appointment to  
44 become immediately effective.

45 (9) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson or of

1 a majority of the voting members of the task force.

2 (10) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

3 (11)(a) The task force shall provide draft recommendations developed under subsections (3) and  
4 (4) of this section to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health no later  
5 than [September 15, 2025] \_\_\_\_\_.

6 (b) The task force shall submit a final report of the task force's recommendations, in the manner  
7 provided by ORS 192.245, to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health  
8 no later than [December 15, 2025] \_\_\_\_\_.

9 (12) The Legislative Policy and Research Director shall provide staff support to the task force,  
10 including by:

11 (a) Researching and providing analysis on current behavioral health funding streams that sup-  
12 port the continuum of care across Oregon communities;

13 (b) Reviewing strategies that have been successful in other states, including through the use of  
14 federal Medicaid waivers or Medicaid demonstration projects;

15 (c) Reviewing data related to the challenges faced by individuals receiving substance use disor-  
16 der treatment in publicly supported treatment settings; and

17 (d) Reviewing the responsibilities of county and state agencies and the accountability of county  
18 and state agencies for providing behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment.

19 (13) Members of the Legislative Assembly appointed to the task force are nonvoting members  
20 of the task force and may act in an advisory capacity only.

21 (14) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are not enti-  
22 tled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses and serve as volunteers on the task force.

23 (15) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist the task  
24 force in the performance of the duties of the task force and, to the extent permitted by laws relating  
25 to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the task force consider neces-  
26 sary to perform their duties.

27 **SECTION 2.** Section 17, chapter 70, Oregon Laws 2024, is amended to read:

28 **Sec. 17.** Section 16, **chapter 70, Oregon Laws 2024**, [of this 2024 Act] is repealed on January  
29 2, [2026] \_\_\_\_\_.

30 **SECTION 3. This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**  
31 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect**  
32 **on its passage.**

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