HB 2794-1 (LC 897) 3/7/25 (CPA/ps)

Requested by Representative NELSON

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 2794

1 On <u>page 1</u> of the printed bill, line 2, after "facilities" insert "; creating 2 new provisions; and amending ORS 441.044".

3 Delete lines 4 through 26 and delete page 2 and insert:

4 "SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2025 Act is added to and made a part
5 of ORS chapter 441.

6 "SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section:

"(a) 'Associated information' means information gathered in the
investigation of or in response to a complaint submitted by a staff
person regarding a medical supply or equipment that a health care
facility uses in the provision of care.

"(b) 'Health care facility' has the meaning given that term in ORS
441.015.

"(c) 'Staff person' means an individual employee or contracted
worker who works at or for a health care facility.

15 **"(2) A health care facility shall:**

16 "(a) Establish and maintain procedures that a staff person may use 17 to submit to the health care facility a complaint regarding a medical 18 supply or equipment that the health care facility supplies and uses in 19 the provision of care if the staff person believes in good faith that the 20 medical supply or equipment is faulty or dangerous;

21 "(b) Retain a copy of a complaint submitted under this subsection

and associated information for a period of five years from the date a
complaint is submitted to the health care facility; and

"(c) Establish and maintain procedures that a person may use to request and obtain a copy of a complaint and associated information retained under this subsection regarding a medical supply or equipment that the health care facility supplies and uses or, within the last five years, has supplied and used in the provision of care for the person.

9 "(3) A staff person may submit a complaint under ORS 441.044 re-10 garding a medical supply or equipment that a health care facility 11 supplies and uses in the provision of care if the staff person believes 12 in good faith that the medical supply or equipment is faulty or dan-13 gerous.

"(4) A health care facility may not take any disciplinary or other adverse action against a staff person because the staff person submits in good faith a complaint to the health care facility or an appropriate regulatory body under ORS 441.044, regarding a medical supply or equipment that the health care facility supplies and uses in the provision of care.

"(5)(a) The Oregon Health Authority shall adopt rules for health
 care facilities, except long term care facilities, to carry out the pro visions of this section.

"(b) The Department of Human Services shall adopt rules for long
 term care facilities to carry out the provisions of this section.

"(c) Rules adopted under this subsection must protect against disclosure of protected health information and other information subject
to state or federal laws limiting the disclosure of health information.

²⁸ "<u>SECTION 3.</u> ORS 441.044 is amended to read:

29 "441.044. (1) Rules adopted pursuant to ORS 441.025 shall include proce-30 dures for the filing of complaints as to the standard of care in any health

HB 2794-1 3/7/25 Proposed Amendments to HB 2794 care facility, including a complaint regarding a medical supply or
 equipment under section 2 of this 2025 Act, and provide for the
 confidentiality of the identity of any complainant.

"(2) A health care facility, or person acting in the interest of the facility, may not take any disciplinary or other adverse action against any employee who in good faith brings evidence of inappropriate care or any other violation of law or rules to the attention of the proper authority solely because of the employee's action as described in this subsection.

"(3) Any employee who has knowledge of inappropriate care or any other 9 violation of law or rules shall utilize established reporting procedures of the 10 health care facility administration before notifying the Department of Hu-11 man Services, Oregon Health Authority or other state agency of the alleged 12 violation, unless the employee believes that patient health or safety is in 13 immediate jeopardy or the employee makes the report to the department or 14 the authority under the confidentiality provisions of subsection (1) of this 15section. 16

"(4) The protection of health care facility employees under subsection (2) of this section shall commence with the reporting of the alleged violation by the employee to the administration of the health care facility or to the department, authority or other state agency pursuant to subsection (3) of this section.

"(5) Any person suffering loss or damage due to any violation of sub section (2) of this section has a right of action for damages in addition to
 other appropriate remedy.

"(6) The provisions of this section do not apply to a nursing staff, as defined in ORS 441.179, who claims to be aggrieved by a violation of ORS
441.181 committed by a hospital.

"(7) Information obtained by the department or the authority during an
investigation of a complaint or reported violation under this section is confidential and not subject to public disclosure under ORS 192.311 to 192.478.

Upon the conclusion of the investigation, the department or the authority 1 may publicly release a report of the department's or the authority's findings $\mathbf{2}$ but may not include information in the report that could be used to identify 3 the complainant or any patient at the health care facility. The department 4 or the authority may use any information obtained during an investigation $\mathbf{5}$ in an administrative or judicial proceeding concerning the licensing of a 6 health care facility, and may report information obtained during an investi- $\mathbf{7}$ gation to a health professional regulatory board as defined in ORS 676.160, 8 the Long Term Care Administrators Board, the Board of Licensed Dietitians 9 or the Behavior Analysis Regulatory Board as that information pertains to 10 a licensee of the board.". 11

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