

# House Bill 2624

Sponsored by Representative BOLES, Senator MONNES ANDERSON, Representatives NOSSE, SMITH G; Representatives BARKER, BONHAM, LEIF, MARSH, SALINAS, Senators FREDERICK, KNOPP, LINTHICUM, MANNING JR (Presession filed.)

## 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**.

Establishes Emergency Department Boarding Pilot Project in Oregon Health Authority. Establishes Task Force on Emergency Department Boarding. Specifies membership and duties.  
Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to providing appropriate care to individuals with mental illness; and declaring an emer-  
3 gency.

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

5 **SECTION 1. (1) The Emergency Department Boarding Pilot Project is established in the**  
6 **Oregon Health Authority. The authority shall provide grants to hospitals to determine the**  
7 **effectiveness of strategies for providing immediate access to appropriate treatment for indi-**  
8 **viduals experiencing behavioral health crises who are being held in an emergency room due**  
9 **to the lack of alternative treatment options.**

10 **(2) The authority shall award grants under subsection (1) of this section to hospitals that:**

11 **(a) Develop community-wide strategies for collaborating with community partners on the**  
12 **placement of individuals experiencing behavioral health crises;**

13 **(b) Collect and analyze data to measure outcomes and evaluate the effectiveness of var-**  
14 **ious strategies; and**

15 **(c) Encourage immediate and appropriate placement of individuals experiencing behav-**  
16 **ioral health crises outside of emergency department settings.**

17 **SECTION 2. (1) The Task Force on Emergency Department Boarding is established.**

18 **(2) The task force consists of 13 members appointed as follows:**

19 **(a) The President of the Senate shall appoint one member from among members of the**  
20 **Senate.**

21 **(b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member from among**  
22 **members of the House of Representatives.**

23 **(c) The Governor shall appoint:**

24 **(A) Two members representing rural and urban hospitals;**

25 **(B) One member representing community mental health programs;**

26 **(C) One member from the Department of Human Services;**

27 **(D) One member from the Department of Corrections;**

28 **(E) One member representing law enforcement agencies;**

29 **(F) One member from the Oregon Health Authority;**

30 **(G) One member representing individuals with developmental disabilities;**

**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 (H) Two members representing community mental health professionals; and

2 (I) One member from an organization that advocates for persons with mental illness.

3 (3) In making appointments, the Governor shall ensure equal representation from rural  
4 and urban regions of this state with a focus on representing all of the state.

5 (4) The task force shall develop long term recommendations to reduce the incidence of  
6 patients experiencing behavioral health crises being held in hospitals due to the lack of al-  
7 ternative community placements or services.

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

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

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

13 (8) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-  
14 ment to become immediately effective.

15 (9) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson  
16 or of a majority of the voting members of the task force.

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

18 (11) The task force shall submit a report, in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, to the  
19 interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health:

20 (a) No later than February 1, 2020, that contains the initial recommendations of the task  
21 force; and

22 (b) No later than September 15, 2020, that contains the final recommendations of the task  
23 force, including recommendations for legislation, if any.

24 (12) The Legislative Policy and Research Director shall provide staff support to the task  
25 force.

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

28 (14) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are not  
29 entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses and serve as volunteers on the task  
30 force.

31 (15) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist  
32 the task force in the performance of the duties of the task force and, to the extent permitted  
33 by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the task  
34 force consider necessary to perform their duties.

35 **SECTION 3.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-  
36 ated to the Oregon Health Authority, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, out of the  
37 General Fund, the amount of \$1,000, which may be expended for providing grants in the  
38 Emergency Department Boarding Pilot Project established in section 1 of this 2018 Act.

39 **SECTION 4.** Section 1 of this 2019 Act becomes operative on July 1, 2019.

40 **SECTION 5.** Section 2 of this 2019 Act is repealed on December 31, 2020.

41 **SECTION 6.** This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
42 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect  
43 on its passage.