

B-Engrossed Senate Bill 1578

Ordered by the Senate March 5
Including Senate Amendments dated February 15 and March 5

Sponsored by Senator MANNING JR, Representatives NELSON, DEXTER, Senator GORSEK; Senators CAMPOS, DEMBROW, FREDERICK, JAMA, Representatives BYNUM, CHAICHI, GAMBA, GRAYBER, HARTMAN, LIVELY, MARSH, NOSSE, PHAM H, REYNOLDS, RUIZ, SOSA (at the request of Lamar Wise, AFSCME) (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. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act directs the OHA to set up a health care interpreter management system. The Act requires the OHA to contract with a nonprofit entity to establish a recruitment and retention program. The Act sets out certain requirements for the nonprofit. The Act requires the nonprofit to submit a report to the OHA each year. The Act requires the OHA to seek out all means to get federal matching funds to pay costs of health care interpreter services. The Act goes into effect 91 days after the session ends. (Flesch Readability Score: 60.6).

Directs the Oregon Health Authority to establish and maintain an online portal with the functionality to provide online scheduling for health care providers and coordinated care organizations to use to contact health care interpreters directly **for purposes of serving Oregon Health Plan members** and to process billing for health care interpreter services that were rendered to Oregon Health Plan members. Requires the authority to contract with a nonprofit entity to develop and administer a health care interpreter recruitment and retention program. Provides criteria and reporting requirements that the contracting nonprofit must meet. Requires the authority to seek any federal funding available for costs of reimbursing health care interpreters for health care interpretation services provided to [*medical assistance recipients*] **Oregon Health Plan members** no later than January 1, 2025.

Modifies certain biennial appropriations made from the General Fund to the Oregon Health Authority.

Establishes and modifies limitations on expenditures for certain biennial expenses for the Oregon Health Authority.

Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to health care interpreters; and prescribing an effective date.

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

4 **SECTION 1. Sections 2 and 3 of this 2024 Act are added to and made a part of ORS 413.550**
5 **to 413.559.**

6 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section and section 3 of this 2024 Act:**

7 (a) **“Interpreter management system” means an online portal that meets the require-**
8 **ments under subsection (3) of this section.**

9 (b) **“Nonprofit entity” means an organization that:**

10 (A) **Is registered in this state;**

11 (B) **Is exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; and**

12 (C) **Works with certified and qualified health care interpreters and individuals from im-**
13 **migrant, refugee, low-income and rural communities and representatives of urban and rural**
14 **regional councils of government.**

15 (2)(a) **For purposes of improving access for Oregon Health Plan members to certified and**

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 qualified health care interpreters, the Oregon Health Authority shall establish and maintain
2 an interpreter management system that has the functionality to meet the requirements de-
3 scribed under subsection (3) of this section.

4 (b) If a software program is available for purchase that is appropriate for the interpreter
5 management system, the authority may contract with the vendor of the software program
6 in lieu of creating a new software program.

7 (3) The interpreter management system shall have the capability to:

8 (a) Provide an online scheduling mechanism that health care providers, including coordi-
9 nated care organizations, may use to directly schedule appointments with certified and
10 qualified health care interpreters for purposes of serving Oregon Health Plan members; and

11 (b) Process billing and payments for health care interpreter services that were rendered
12 to Oregon Health Plan members and scheduled through the interpreter management system.

13 **SECTION 3.** (1)(a) The Oregon Health Authority shall enter into a contract with a
14 nonprofit entity to develop and administer a health care interpreter recruitment and re-
15 tention program. The purpose of the program is to recruit individuals to become trained as
16 qualified and certified health care interpreters and to promote retention of certified health
17 care interpreters within the health care interpreter profession.

18 (b) The nonprofit entity contracting with the authority must meet, at a minimum, the
19 following requirements and standards:

20 (A) The ability to directly contact qualified and certified health care interpreters to fill
21 empty appointment slots and last-minute cancellations by scheduling appointments through
22 the interpreter management system described under section 2 of this 2024 Act, or otherwise.

23 (B) Providing information, in consultation with the Oregon Health Authority, to health
24 care interpreters regarding the health care interpreter qualification and certification stan-
25 dards established by the authority.

26 (C) Informing health care interpreters of training and professional development oppor-
27 tunities, made available through the nonprofit entity or otherwise, that are in accordance
28 with standards adopted by the Oregon Health Authority under ORS 413.558.

29 (2) A nonprofit entity that contracts and consults with the Oregon Health Authority
30 under subsection (1) of this section shall report annually to the authority on the:

31 (a) Amount of moneys received from the authority that were applied toward providing
32 training and recruitment of health care interpreters, if any;

33 (b) Health care interpreter training provided by the nonprofit entity, if any;

34 (c) Outreach and recruitment efforts directed toward certified and qualified health care
35 interpreters that the nonprofit entity has provided or plans to provide; and

36 (d) The fill rates of appointments scheduled through the interpreter management system
37 described under section 2 of this 2024 Act.

38 **SECTION 4.** Not later than January 1, 2025, the Oregon Health Authority shall take all
39 steps necessary to secure federal financial participation in the costs of directly reimbursing
40 health care interpreters for health care interpretation services provided to Oregon Health
41 Plan members.

42 **SECTION 5.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the General Fund appropriation
43 made to the Oregon Health Authority by section 1 (1), chapter 591, Oregon Laws 2023, for the
44 biennium ending June 30, 2025, for Health Systems Division - Administration, is increased
45 by \$280,274, for carrying out the provisions of sections 2, 3 and 4 of this 2024 Act.

1 **SECTION 6.** Notwithstanding any other law limiting expenditures, the limitation on
2 expenditures established by section 5 (1), chapter 591, Oregon Laws 2023, for the biennium
3 ending June 30, 2025, as the maximum limit for payment of expenses from federal funds,
4 excluding federal funds described in section 2, chapter 591, Oregon Laws 2023, collected or
5 received by the Oregon Health Authority, for Health Services Division - Administration, is
6 increased by \$280,274, for carrying out the provisions of sections 2, 3 and 4 of this 2024 Act.

7 **SECTION 7.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the General Fund appropriation
8 made to the Oregon Health Authority by section 1 (6), chapter 591, Oregon Laws 2023, for the
9 biennium ending June 30, 2025, for central services, is increased by \$260,000, for carrying out
10 the provisions of sections 2, 3 and 4 of this 2024 Act.

11 **SECTION 8.** Notwithstanding any other law limiting expenditures, the limitation on
12 expenditures established by section 5 (6), chapter 591, Oregon Laws 2023, for the biennium
13 ending June 30, 2025, as the maximum limit for payment of expenses from federal funds,
14 excluding federal funds described in section 2, chapter 591, Oregon Laws 2023, collected or
15 received by the Oregon Health Authority, for central services, is increased by \$240,000, for
16 carrying out the provisions of sections 2, 3 and 4 of this 2024 Act.

17 **SECTION 9.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the General Fund appropriation
18 made to the Oregon Health Authority by section 1 (7), chapter 591, Oregon Laws 2023, for the
19 biennium ending June 30, 2025, for state assessments and enterprise-wide costs, is increased
20 by \$6,856, for carrying out the provisions of sections 2, 3 and 4 of this 2024 Act.

21 **SECTION 10.** Notwithstanding any other law limiting expenditures, the limitation on
22 expenditures established by section 5 (7), chapter 591, Oregon Laws 2023, for the biennium
23 ending June 30, 2025, as the maximum limit for payment of expenses from federal funds,
24 excluding federal funds described in section 2, chapter 591, Oregon Laws 2023, collected or
25 received by the Oregon Health Authority, for state assessments and enterprise-wide costs,
26 is increased by \$6,856, for carrying out the provisions of sections 2, 3 and 4 of this 2024 Act.

27 **SECTION 11.** Notwithstanding any other law limiting expenditures, the limitation on
28 expenditures established by section 2 (10), chapter 591, Oregon Laws 2023, for the biennium
29 ending June 30, 2025, as the maximum limit for payment of expenses from fees, moneys or
30 other revenues, including Miscellaneous Receipts, tobacco tax receipts, marijuana tax re-
31 cepts, beer and wine tax receipts, provider taxes and Medicare receipts, but excluding lot-
32 tery funds and federal funds not described in section 2, chapter 591, Oregon Laws 2023,
33 collected or received by the Oregon Health Authority, for shared administrative services, is
34 increased by \$302,148, for carrying out the provisions of sections 2, 3 and 4 of this 2024 Act.

35 **SECTION 12.** This 2024 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2024
36 regular session of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.
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