



## **OAFP Weekly Report**

**Week ending February 16, 2024**

### **Capitol Climate**

This marked the 2nd week of session and the first deadline. Bills, in policy committees (not Joint Committees, Revenue or Finance committees), were required to be posted for committee votes by COB on Monday, February 12th or they would not move forward. As is usual, most bills were scheduled for votes. Many bills given those vote dates were done so merely as a courtesy, either allowing for the possibility of bills being amended to the satisfaction of the committee chair and leadership or to allow for additional public comment time on the issue with no intention of moving the bill forward any further. Given those “courteous” vote agendas, we do anticipate seeing a great number of bills refrain from moving forward as we mark the 2nd major deadline on Monday, February 19th. This deadline stipulates that bills must have had a successful policy committee vote (referred to as a “work session”) in order to move to the next phase of legislating. For some bills that next step will be heading to the opposite chamber’s policy committee, for some it will be to a Ways & Means subcommittee for appropriations considerations, and for a few lucky bills to the House or Senate Rules committee allowing for more time to refine the bill language.

As is expected during short session, and one packed with more than the usual number of bills and high profile issues (Measure 110 reform, Governor’s Housing Production Package) the feeling in the building was chaotic and when asked “how are you doing?” 99% of the time you get “I’m tired!!” as a response. Tensions are high as legislators and lobbyists scurry to get agreements amongst stakeholders, amendments drafted (correctly, at that), and convince leadership to allow their issue to move forward. Everyone will breath a big sigh of relief Monday night, when there finally seems to be a light at the end of this 35 day long tunnel.

## **Committee Hearing Report outs**

### *Senate Health Care*

02/12/2024

Public hearing on [SB 1578](#) (health care interpreters) was held for testimony carried over from the prior week (2/7). Multiple interpreters and unions testified in support of the bill explaining that the bill would increase equity in interpreting services, benefit providers through a streamlined process, and that the program is optional. Two remote interpreters testified in opposition to the bill they shared that remote interpreters have more staff and offer more languages but they did not give a reason this bill would affect it. It felt clear that the opposition was just upset that this would make it easier to book independent interpreters.

### *House Early Childhood and Human Services*

02/12/2024

#### [HB 4105](#) (Nurse-Family Program) Work Session

- Unanimously moved to the floor on a do pass recommendation and referral to ways and means without discussion.

### *Senate Finance and Revenue*

02/12/2024

#### [SB 1542](#) (CAT Tax) PH

### *House Behavioral Health and Health Care*

02/12/2024

#### [HB 4091](#) (Insurance Advisory Committee) Work Session

##### [SMS](#)

- Moved to the floor with a do pass recommendation with a referral to ways and means. There was no discussion, only no vote from Rep. Yunker

#### [HB 4150](#) (Overdose Notification) Work Session

##### [SMS](#)

- Moved to the floor with a do pass recommendation. There was no discussion, only no vote from Rep. Yunker

## *Senate Health Care*

02/14/2024

### [SB 1506](#) (SARS-CoV-2) Work Session

[-2 SMS](#): Specifies that the Oregon Health Plan, health benefit plans, and Public Employee Benefit Board (PEBB) and Oregon Employee Benefit Board (OEBB) plans must reimburse pharmacists for testing and treatment for SARS-CoV-2.

- The amendment was adopted unanimously. Sen. Patterson clarified that the bill will just allow current practices to continue; it does not amend pharmacists roles or responsibilities.
- The bill moved to the floor with a do pass recommendation without discussion.

### [SB 1578](#) (health care interpreters) WS

[-1 SMS](#): Details the roles and responsibilities of OHA and the nonprofit established in the measure with regard to the interpreter management system.

- The amendment was adopted on a party line vote. Sen. Hayden and Bonham shared concerns that the bill would diminish competition, that it would increase prices, and that a single non-profit entity could not represent the entire state fairly.
- The bill moved to the floor with a do pass recommendation and referral to ways and means on a party line vote.

## *House Behavioral Health and Health Care*

02/14/2024

### [HB 4081](#) (EMS Modernization) Work Session

#### [-2, -3 SMS](#)

-2: Clarifies advisory board membership and duties, clarifies criteria and responsibilities of the EMS data system development, requires reporting on even-numbered years.

-3: Clarifies that confidentiality protections do not extend to information that is discoverable or admissible from other source.

- Adopted the -2 amendment unanimously without discussion.
- Adopted the -3 amendment unanimously without discussion.

- The bill unanimously moved to the floor with a “do pass” recommendation and referral to ways and means.

#### [HB 4113](#) (co-pay assistance) Work Session

[-3 SMS](#): Clarifies application to plans offered by the Public Employees' Benefit Board (PEBB) and Oregon Educators Benefit Board (OEBC)  
Clarifies application of measure to high deductible health plans.

- Adopted the -3 amendment unanimously without discussion.
- The bill unanimously moved to the floor with a “do pass” recommendation. Rep. Levy, the chief sponsor, shared her intent to continue this work and expand on it in the future. There was no discussion from the committee.

#### [HB 4136](#) (nursing licensing) Work Session

##### [-1, -2 SMS](#):

-1: Clarifies required elements of agreement between OHA and Lane County Public Health. Specifies purposes fund appropriation. Removes requirement for OHA to review and report on access to health care services.

-2: Removes provision requiring OSBN to issue provisional license to application for licensure by endorsement.

- Adopted the -1 amendment unanimously without discussion.
- Adopted the -2 amendment unanimously Rep. Nathanson clarified that the -2 is to fit within the nurses existing licensing structure.
- The bill unanimously moved to the floor with a “do pass” recommendation with referral to ways and means without discussion.

Public hearing on [HB 4071](#) (Temporary licensing), was held and the work session was carried over due to controversy over interstate compacts. Rep. Diehl, three providers, the department of defense, and the National State Compact Director testified in support. They focused on the need to increase workforce, the current backlog in licensing applications, that interstate compacts still allow states to set standards and regulations, and that compacts help military families. Various medical boards testified as neutral but they were clearly opposed to the compacts. They shared the

harms to patient that compacts tend to yield and that the boards are already working to address the backlog of applicants. No one was opposed to the task force in the -1 amendments. Rep. Javadi was confused why if someone graduates from an accredited university that would not be enough for the state, the boards responded that it would be the issue is graduates from unaccredited universities.

#### HB 4071 [-1, -2, -3 SMS](#)

- -1 creates a Task Force on Health Professional Licensing Modernization is established, replacing the temporary authorization to practice requirement from introduced legislation.
- -2 creates interstate compact for social workers
- -3 creates interstate compact for counselors

#### *House Judiciary*

02/15/2024

Public hearing and a work session were held on [HB 4088](#) (Rep. Nelson's hospital worker protections). The public hearing was for testimony carried over from 2/13. The Emergency Nurses Association and a therapy dog handler testified in support focusing on the increasing incidents of violence on hospital staff. The nurse association claimed that nurses would not report an assault if it was clear that the patient did not intend to hurt them. Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers and various disability advocates testified in opposition to the -2 amendment which removed the exception for individuals with IDD. OCDLA also mentioned the definition of hospital and the carve out for in-patient mental health treatment would create confusion.

The work session caused much debate, Rep. Chaichi, Reynolds, Andersen, and Yunker were concerned about removing the exception for people with IDD. The committee stood at ease while caucuses discussed what to do. When they returned the -2 amendment was adopted and they eventually decided to move the bill to the floor with a do pass recommendation and referral to ways and means, Rep. Chaichi was the only no vote. Rep. Andersen shared that since the bill requires intent and for the individual to be aware that he felt comfortable moving the bill

forward. Rep. Kropf explained that the IDD exception does not exist anywhere else in statute but that there are other protections for individuals with IID.

## **Floor Activity**

*Senate Floor*

02/13/2024

[SB 1508](#) (QALY) -2 amendment (added insulin co-pay cap at \$35) Third Reading

- The bill passed with 27 yes and 3 no votes. Sen. Gelsler Blouin and Steiner shared support for the bill, Steiner also emphasized that we need to address manufacturers and that it is shameful that the state needs to ensure people can afford life saving medication. Sen. Linithicum spoke in opposition to the bill because he believes QALY and insulin are too different of topics to be included in one bill, he also wants us to go after the manufacturers.

## **Coalition Meeting Report**

*Allied for a Healthier Oregon*

02/14/2024

The group shared brief updates on bills of interest. No new information was shared.



# The Week Ahead

## House Session

Feb 19, 2024 11:00am

House

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2024R1/2024-02-19>

OR 2024 <a href="#">HB 4113</a>	<a href="#">Emerson Levy</a> <a href="#">Cyrus Javadi</a> <a href="#">Sara Gelser</a> <a href="#">Blouin</a>	Relating to the cost of health care. <b>Third Reading</b>	House • Feb 16, 2024: Second reading.	<a href="#">A-Engrossed</a>	Low Oregon Academy of Family Physicians OSPIRG Prescription Drug Related
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## House Behavioral Health and Health Care

Feb 19, 2024 03:00pm

HR F

This meeting is being held at the State Capitol. A livestream may be viewed at [https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2024R1/Committees/ HBHHC/Overview](https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2024R1/Committees/HBHHC/Overview) For information on how to submit written testimony or register to testify on bills scheduled for a public hearing: [https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/citizen\\_engagement](https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/citizen_engagement) Language Access Services Interpretation, Translation, Closed Captioning, CART (Communication Across Realtime Translation)-Please request services at least three days prior to the scheduled meeting date.-To request a link to an American Sign Language (ASL) accessible meeting view, email [languageaccess@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:languageaccess@oregonlegislature.gov) or call 503-986-1538.-For more information on available services, see [https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/citizen\\_engagement/Pages/language-access.aspx](https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/citizen_engagement/Pages/language-access.aspx)

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2024R1/Committees/HBHHC/2024-02-19-15-00>

OR 2024 <a href="#">HB 4071</a>	<a href="#">Ed Diehl</a> <a href="#">Hai Pham</a> <a href="#">Daniel</a> <a href="#">Bonham</a>	Relating to health care licensing; prescribing an effective date. <b>Work Session</b>	House • Feb 19, 2024: Work Session scheduled.	<a href="#">Introduced</a>	General Health Care Low Oregon Academy of Family Physicians
OR 2024 <a href="#">HB 4010</a>	Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed	Relating to health care; prescribing an effective date. <b>Work Session</b>	House • Feb 19, 2024: Work Session scheduled.	<a href="#">Introduced</a>	General Health Care Low Oregon Academy of Family Physicians
OR 2024 <a href="#">HB 4011</a>	Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed	Relating to health care; prescribing an effective date. <b>Work Session</b>	House • Feb 19, 2024: Work Session scheduled.	<a href="#">Introduced</a>	General Health Care Medium Oregon Academy of Family Physicians
OR 2024 <a href="#">HB 4130</a>	<a href="#">Ben Bowman</a> <a href="#">Maxine</a> <a href="#">Dexter</a> <a href="#">Wlinsvey</a> <a href="#">Campos</a>	Relating to the practice of health care; prescribing an effective date. <b>Work Session</b>	House • Feb 19, 2024: Work Session scheduled.	<a href="#">Introduced</a>	General Health Care High Oregon Academy of Family Physicians OSPIRG Support

## Senate Health Care

Feb 21, 2024 01:00pm

HR E

Language Access Services (interpreter, translation, CART):-Go to: [https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/citizen\\_engagement/Pages/language-access.aspx](https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/citizen_engagement/Pages/language-access.aspx)-Request services at least 3 days prior to the scheduled meeting date.-Closed captioning is available for live and recorded meetings.To view a live stream of the meeting: <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2024R1/Committees/SHC/Overview> For information on how

to submit written testimony or register to testify on bills scheduled for a public hearing: [https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/citizen\\_engagement](https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/citizen_engagement)  
<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2024R1/Committees/SHC/2024-02-21-13-00>

OR 2024 <a href="#">HB 4150</a>	<a href="#">Mark Owens</a> <a href="#">Cyrus Javadi</a> <a href="#">Hai Pham</a>	Relating to prescription monitoring program; prescribing an effective date. <b>Public Hearing and Possible Work Session</b>	Senate • Feb 21, 2024: Public Hearing and Possible Work Session scheduled.	<a href="#">Introduced</a>	<b>General Health Care</b> <b>Low Oregon Academy of Family Physicians</b>
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