

CHAPTER 113**AN ACT**

SB 1578

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

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

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

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

(a) "Interpreter management system" means an online portal that meets the requirements under subsection (3) of this section.

(b) "Nonprofit entity" means an organization that:

(A) Is registered in this state;

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

(C) Works with certified and qualified health care interpreters and individuals from immigrant, refugee, low-income and rural communities and representatives of urban and rural regional councils of government.

(2)(a) For purposes of improving access for Oregon Health Plan members to certified and qualified health care interpreters, the Oregon Health Authority shall establish and maintain an interpreter management system that has the functionality to meet the requirements described under subsection (3) of this section.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(B) Providing information, in consultation with the Oregon Health Authority, to health care interpreters regarding the health care interpreter qualification and certification standards established by the authority.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 6. Notwithstanding any other law limiting expenditures, the limitation on expenditures established by section 5 (1), chapter 591, Oregon Laws 2023, for the biennium ending June 30, 2025, as the maximum limit for payment of expenses from federal funds, excluding federal funds described in section 2, chapter 591, Oregon Laws 2023, collected or received by the Oregon

Health Authority, for Health Services Division - Administration, is increased by \$280,274, for carrying out the provisions of sections 2, 3 and 4 of this 2024 Act.

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

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

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

SECTION 10. Notwithstanding any other law limiting expenditures, the limitation on expend-

itures established by section 5 (7), chapter 591, Oregon Laws 2023, for the biennium ending June 30, 2025, as the maximum limit for payment of expenses from federal funds, excluding federal funds described in section 2, chapter 591, Oregon Laws 2023, collected or received by the Oregon Health Authority, for state assessments and enterprise-wide costs, is increased by \$6,856, for carrying out the provisions of sections 2, 3 and 4 of this 2024 Act.

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

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

Approved by the Governor April 17, 2024

Filed in the office of Secretary of State April 17, 2024

Effective date June 6, 2024
