

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** No fiscal impact

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**Action:** Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

**Vote:** 4 - 0 - 1

**Yeas:** Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Verger, Morrisette

**Nays:** 0

**Exc.:** George G.

**Prepared By:** Ilana Weinbaum, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 1/24, 3/21

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Reenacts a requirement repealed under the automatic repeal provision which requires individual or group health insurance policies that provide coverage for acupuncture services performed by a physician to provide equal coverage for acupuncture services performed by a licensed acupuncturist. Repeals the original statute and exempts new requirement from automatic repeal. Requires that policy benefits, deductibles and coinsurance are computed in the same way regardless of whether services are provided by a physician or acupuncturist.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Clarification that bill does not mandate coverage of acupuncture services
- How insurance companies set reimbursement rates
- Effect of mandates on insurance costs

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Removes restriction that insurance companies must compute reimbursement rates based on the customary and usual fee of acupuncturists in the area served.

**BACKGROUND:** ORS 743.722 required any individual or group health insurance policy providing for payment or reimbursement for acupuncture services performed by a physician to also provide payment or reimbursement for acupuncture services performed by a licensed acupuncturist. This statute was automatically repealed under ORS 743.700, which controls the automatic repeal of certain statutes on individual and group health insurance.