

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 3 - 1 - 1

Yeas: Atkinson, Bates, Avakian

Nays: Beyer

Exc.: Prozanski

Prepared By: Sue Marshall, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 4/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires dentist who practice in Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, Lane, Linn and Polk counties to have amalgam separator installed in wastewater drain if materials containing mercury pass through drain. Exempts until July 1, 2013 dentists who follow best management practices outlined by Oregon Dental Association. Establishes reporting requirements. Requires Board of Dentistry to adopt rules to administer and enforce provisions of measure. Imposes civil penalty for violators.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Costs to install amalgam separators
- Appropriate entity to enforce requirements of the measure
- Mercury accumulation in fish tissue and health risk to individual who consume fish
- Application of voluntary best management practices

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Limits requirement to those dentists who practice in Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, Lane, Linn and Polk counties. Provides a time limited exemption through July 1, 2013, to dentists who follow best management practices recommended by Oregon Dental Association.

BACKGROUND: Mercury is a naturally occurring element and neurotoxin that persists in the environment and accumulates in the tissues of aquatic species. There is concern that mercury levels may be increasing in public waters in Oregon and pose a health risk to individuals who consume higher quantities of fish in their diet. Senate Bill 704-A seeks to reduce one source of mercury that comes from dental practices by requiring the installation of amalgam separators in six counties. The measure allows for a time-limited exemption for dentists who implement best management practices.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.