

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	6 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Beyer, Burley, Cannon, Jenson, Smith G., Dingfelder
Nays:	-
Exc.:	Macpherson
Prepared By:	Cat McGinnis, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/14, 5/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires dentists who use dental materials containing mercury to implement and maintain best management practices of dental wastes as developed by the Oregon Dental Association (ODA) and to have an amalgam separator installed in a wastewater drain if materials containing mercury pass through the drain. Exempts until January 1, 2011, dentists certified by a special district that manages wastewater as following ODA guidelines for best management of dental wastes. Requires that qualifying amalgam separator be verified by the manufacturer to remove at least 95 percent of amalgam passing through the drain. Prohibits incineration of captured amalgam. Requires that newly-constructed dental facilities include amalgam separators. Requires each dental office to keep proof of amalgam separator installation and to keep a maintenance log for the most recent three years available for inspection by the Oregon Board of Dentistry.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Feasibility of retrofitting older dental offices with amalgam separators
- Timeliness of January 1, 2011, implementation date
- Current process for certification of dentists by special districts that manage wastewater
- Broad stakeholder consensus supporting the measure

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces original measure.

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-B seeks to reduce one source of mercury that comes from dental practices by requiring the installation of amalgam separators and adherence to Oregon Dental Association best practices for the management of dental waste containing mercury.