

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	9 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Bruun, Cannon, Dembrow, Garrett, Harker, Kennemer, Maurer, Thompson, Greenlick
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Kotek
Prepared By:	Roxie Cuellar, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/4, 5/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Exempts dental clinics at certain institutions of higher education from requirement to have license to practice dentistry, and further clarifies ownership and exemptions related to dental practices.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Portland State University dental clinic
- Source of funding for university dental clinics
- State requirement that all dental clinics be owned and operated by licensed dentists
- Growing list of exemptions from ownership requirement
- Discussion of broader issue of dental clinic ownership during interim

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Over the last few years, dental stakeholders have met to address common concerns related to the Dental Practice Act (ORS 679). Topics of discussion have included preservation of a dental practice in the event of a death of the dentist, operation of Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) dental school clinics, non-profit charitable clinics, dental practice management companies, distinctions between ownership of a practice and management of the practice, and the non-clinical aspects of a dental clinic.

Currently, ORS 679 contains six exemptions to the prohibition against non-dentists owning or operating a dental practice. They include: 1) non-profit organizations formed by or on behalf of labor organizations for the purpose of providing dental services; 2) the OHSU School of Dentistry; 3) local governments; 4) programs accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association; 5) non-profit corporations organized under state law to provide dental services to rural areas and medically underserved populations; and 6) non-profit charitable corporations determined by the Board of Dentistry as providing dental services by volunteer licensed dentists to populations with limited access to dental care at no charge or a substantially reduced charge. This measure adds "institutions of higher education" as another exemption to ORS 679.