

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bates, Kruse, Morrisette, Morse, Monnes Anderson
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Robert Shook, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/10, 3/31

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Ownership of a dental office or clinic
- Exemptions to the prohibition against non-dentists owning or operating a dental clinic
- Oregon Board of Dentistry requirements relative to dental clinic ownership
- Student health centers treating students with dental care needs

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Clarifies that “only a person licensed as a dentist by the Oregon Board of Dentistry may own, operate, conduct or maintain a dental practice, office or clinic in this state.” Adds an exemption to include “institutions of higher education” listed in ORS 352.002.

BACKGROUND: Over the last few years dental stakeholders have met to address common concerns related to the Dental Practice Act – ORS 679. Topics have included preservation of a dental practice in the event of the death of the dentist, operation of Oregon Health & Science University 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 Oregon 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 reduce charge. This bill would add “institutions of higher education” as another exemption to ORS 679.