

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass as Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, and Be Placed on the Consent Calendar

Vote: 9 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Bruun, Cannon, Dembrow, Garrett, Harker, Kennemer, Kotek, Thompson, Greenlick

Nays: 0

Exc.: Maurer

Prepared By: Roxie Cuellar, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/6, 3/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows the Department of Human Services (DHS) to contract with physicians to serve as chief medical officers while physicians are employed or receive compensation from outside sources. Establishes alternative to hiring chief medical officer as a state employee. Clarifies role of chief medical examiner, whether hired as a state employee as an unclassified employee, a self-employed contractor, or an employee of a private or public entity who contracts with DHS to provide the services of the chief medical officer. Establishes supervision of other physicians and delegation of authority by chief medical officer.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current barriers to recruitment for chief medical officer position
- Chief medical officer position is now typically part-time
- Provisions of the bill

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT: -1 Amendment clarifies role of chief medical examiner, whether hired as a state employee as an unclassified employee, a self-employed contractor, or an employee of a private or public entity who contracts with DHS to provide the services of the chief medical officer. Establishes supervision of other physicians and delegation of authority by chief medical officer.

BACKGROUND: The Department of Human Services (DHS) currently operates three hospitals for persons with mental disabilities: The Oregon State Hospital in Salem, and the Blue Mountain Recovery Center and Eastern Oregon Training Center, both located in Pendleton. If licensed as a physician in Oregon, the superintendent of the hospital also serves as the chief medical officer. If not, the Director of DHS appoints a physician to serve as chief medical officer. Current statutory language requires that the appointee must be a state employee. Permitting the Director to contract with a physician will reportedly increase recruitment options when DHS has a chief medical officer vacancy.