

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Bates, Kruse, Morrisette, Morse, Monnes Anderson
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Robert Shook, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 4/9, 4/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows podiatric physician and surgeon to assist a physician in surgery on any part of the body.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Educational training of podiatric physicians
- Duties of assistant in surgery
- Scope of practice issues

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Podiatry refers to the diagnosis or the medical, physical or surgical treatment of ailments of the human foot, ankle and tendons directly attached to the foot and ankle. Also known as doctors of podiatric medicine (DPM), podiatrists are defined as physicians by the federal government and in most states, including Oregon.

DPM's receive medical education and training comparable to medical doctors (MD), including four years of undergraduate education, four years of graduate education at one of eight accredited podiatric medical colleges, and two or three years of hospital residency. Within the field of podiatry, practitioners can focus on many different specialty areas, including surgery, sports medicine, biomechanics, geriatrics, pediatrics, orthopedics or primary care. In Oregon, licensure of DPMs is granted by the Oregon Medical Board.

Senate Bill 729 allows DPMs to assist a physician in surgery on any part of the body, and not be restricted to their primary training on feet, ankles, and tendons. DPMs are trained in surgery, and are asked occasionally by their medical colleagues to assist in specific surgical cases outside of their primary scope of practice.