

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. G. Smith  
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Winters

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

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Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure as Amended and Be Printed B-Engrossed

Vote: 23 – 0 – 1

House

Yeas: Barker, Buckley, Cowan, Edwards, Garrard, Gilman, Jenson, Komp, Kotek, Nathanson, Richardson

Nays:

Exc: G. Smith

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Courtney, Edwards, Girod, Johnson, Kruse, Monroe, Nelson, Shields, Verger, Whitsett, Winters

Nays:

Exc:

Prepared By: Monica Brown, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: February 22, 2010

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Renames the Rural Health Services Program to the Primary Care Services Program. Transfers the administration of the Program from the Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC) to the Office of Rural Health at Oregon Health and Science University. Specifies that the Rural Health Program records and property, not employees, will be transferred to the Office of Rural Health. Specifies July 1, 2011 as operative date. Changes current loan repayment formula. Adds Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine to the repayment program. Specifies funding distribution distinction for rural providers and for urban providers. Defines urban practice site. Creates Primary Care Services Fund. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- None

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Makes technical adjustments carried over from the policy committee, and clarifies that funding will pass through the Department of Administrative Services to OHSU.

**BACKGROUND:** With the current health workforce shortages, and to increase the supply of health care practitioners, additional mechanisms and incentives have been implemented to recruit, retain and attract individuals into health care professions. Tax credits and loan repayment programs are such incentives.

The average medical school student loan debt is between \$150,000 and \$300,000. Oregon's Rural Health Services Program's student loan repayment, ORS 442.550-442.570, is available to physicians, physician assistants, dentists, pharmacists and nurse practitioners with qualifying student loans who agree to practice in an underserved community for not less than three years.