

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference
Vote:	7 - 1 - 0
Yeas:	Cannon, Doherty, Hoyle, Kennemer, Parrish, Greenlick, Thompson
Nays:	Weidner
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/9, 3/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Appropriates money to Office of Rural Health for purposes of Primary Care Services Program. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Background on current loan repayment program
- Program renamed to Primary Care Loan Repayment Program in 2010
- 1993 to 2008 outcomes of loan repayment program
- Oregon Healthcare Workforce Institute 2010 report
- Additional incentive programs
- Current reimbursement rates for existing providers
- Transformation of current delivery system

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Specifies that moneys be appropriated to Office of Rural Health for the purpose of Primary Care Services Program.

BACKGROUND: The Primary Care Services Loan Repayment Program offers loan repayment to physicians, dentists, pharmacists, nurse practitioners and physician assistants who practice in rural areas with unmet health care needs. The program provides loan repayment awards to pharmacists and medical and dental practitioners who agree to serve in an underserved rural or urban community for three to six years. A practitioner can be awarded up to \$25,000 per year to help repay loans that resulted from education and medical training.

The program made its first awards in 1993, and made a total of 79 awards between 1993 and 2008. In 2010, the Legislature made multiple changes to the program that included the addition of naturopaths to potential recipients, required 25 percent of the awards to be made to practitioners in urban underserved communities, and moved primary responsibility for administration of the program to the Oregon Student Assistance Commission to the Oregon Office of Rural Health. However, the lack of funding has not permitted any of these changes to be implemented.

House Bill 2400 A appropriates money to Office of Rural Health to fund the Primary Care Services Loan Repayment Program.

3/8/2011 10:43:00 AM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.