

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote:	5 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Atkinson, Burdick, Edwards, Starr, Beyer
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Girod
Prepared By:	Richard Berger, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Adds podiatric physician and surgeon to definition of attending physician for purposes of workers' compensation law.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Management-Labor Advisory Committee support
- Possibility of saving health care costs by removing requirement for referrals between doctors
- Education requirements for Doctors of Podiatric Medicine

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: In 2006, the Department of Consumer and Business Services Workers' Compensation Division reviewed the role of podiatrists and concluded that changes needed to be made to existing workers' compensation statutes relating to podiatry. In 2007 the Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 2756, which fixed some of the problems for podiatrists, but also created others. For example, prior to the reform legislation, Doctors of Podiatric Medicine (DPMs) were classified as attending physicians. In the two years prior to House Bill 2756, DPMs had a relatively low number of claims and had among the lowest cost per claim. Since the reform legislation, workers' compensation patients who need the services of a podiatrist have often been required to see two doctors, a DPM for treatment and a Medical Doctor or Osteopath as an attending physician. Proponents of House Bill 2743 A assert that this has added cost to the system, created a burden for patients, and delayed care, slowing down recovery.

House Bill 2743 A restores DPMs as attending physicians within the Oregon's workers' compensation system.