

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
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bates, Kruse, Morse, Shields, Monnes Anderson
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Brian Nieuburt, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/21, 4/11, 4/13, 4/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Modifies provisions relating to regulation of physician assistants (PAs). Requires PA to enter into practice agreement with a supervising physician or supervising physician organization. Enumerates practice agreement components. Requires Oregon Medical Board (Board) to approve or reject PA applications within seven working days unless Board is conducting an investigation. Modifies definition of “supervision.” Modifies PA application requirements. Requires supervising physicians to provide Board with a copy of practice agreement within 10 days of the PA beginning practice and allows Board to request meeting to discuss practice agreement. Requires supervising physician to ensure competence of PAs. Requires supervising physician to be competent to perform duties delegated to PAs. Prohibits Board from requiring supervising physician to be present at all times. Allows Board to approve supervision of PAs by more than four physicians. Allows Board to approve supervision of more than four PAs by a supervising physician. Enumerates PA licensure application requirements. Enumerates medical services PAs may provide. Removes provisions allowing PAs to provide medical services in settings where a supervising physician does not normally practice. Requires Physician Assistant Committee to review and make recommendations to Board regarding all matters relating to PAs. Grandfathers PAs practicing before the operative date of the Act. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Collaboration between Board and Oregon Medical Association (OMA)
- Current delay in issuance of PA licenses
- Loss of PAs to other states
- Regulation of PAs in other states

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Adds regular and routine oversight and chart review to definition of “supervision.” Adds to PA application requirements. Requires Board to approve applications within seven working days unless Board is conducting an investigation. Adds additional elements to practice agreement requirements. Requires supervising physician to supply a copy of practice agreement within 10 days of the PA beginning practice and allows Board to request meeting to discuss practice agreement. Requires supervising physician to ensure competence of PAs. Requires supervising physician to be competent to perform duties delegated to PAs. Prohibits Board from requiring supervising physician be present at all times. Allows Board to approve supervision of PAs by more than four physicians. Allows Board to approve supervision of more than four PAs by a supervising physician. Requires Physician Assistant Committee to review and make recommendations to the Board regarding all matters relating to PAs. Grandfathers already licensed PAs.

BACKGROUND: PAs practice medicine as members of a team with their supervising physicians. PAs are certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants and are state-licensed.

Senate Bill 224-A allows for more flexible use of PAs based upon a practice agreement between the PA and his/her supervising physician. The bill represents collaboration between the Board and OMA that ensures PAs will be able to practice to the full extent their licenses allow.

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