

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
<b>Vote:</b>	5 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Bates, Kruse, Morse, Shields, Monnes Anderson
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Brian Nieuburt, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	3/9, 3/28, 4/18, 4/20

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Allows the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to approve pilot projects to encourage the development of innovative practices in oral health care delivery systems with a focus on providing care to populations that evidence-based studies have shown have the highest disease rates and the least access to dental care. Changes name of “limited access permit dental hygienist” to “expanded practice dental hygienist.” Modifies expanded practice dental hygienist application requirements. Expands list of people expanded practice dental hygienists may treat to include patients whose income is less than the federal poverty level and other populations that the Oregon Board of Dentistry (Board) determines are underserved or lack access to dental hygiene services. Expands scope of practice of expanded practice dental hygienists to include: (a) administering local anesthesia; (b) administering temporary restorations without excavation; (c) prescribing prophylactic antibiotics and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs; and (d) overall dental risk assessment and referral. Requires expanded practice dental hygienists to enter into scope of practice agreements. Requires the Board to issue expanded practice dental hygienist permits to all persons currently holding a limited access permit. Requires insurance policy covering dental health services to cover the services when they are performed by an expanded practice dental hygienist. Requires the Board to compile data on the use of expanded practice dental hygienists. Requires the Board to adopt rules requiring health insurers to report on the reimbursement of services provided by expanded practice dental hygienists. Requires the Board to report to an interim legislative committee on the reimbursement of expanded practice dental hygienists on or before October 1 of each even-numbered year. Allows OHA to approve pilot projects for training and certifying community dental health coordinators to educate the community on dental health. Establishes the Dental Pilot Projects Fund and continuously appropriates moneys. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Mediation process
- Oral health care workforce needs
- Disparities in oral health across state
- Successes of similar programs instituted in Alaska, New Zealand and Canada

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Replaces measure.

**BACKGROUND:** Oral health is vital for sustaining overall health, to getting good nutrition, and communicating with others. Oral disease often brings disabling pain and can even worsen heart and respiratory conditions and autoimmune diseases. A 2006 study by the Oregon Department of Human Services, Public Health Division, found that 61 percent of Oregon’s counties endure some type of shortage of dental professionals. A 2008 study by the Government Accountability Office also highlighted the difficulties of accessing dental care for low income children.

Senate Bill 738-A addresses Oregon’s oral health access needs in three ways. First, the bill allows OHA to approve pilot projects to encourage the development of innovative practices to improve oral health delivery systems. Second, Senate Bill 738-A expands the scope of practice of expanded practice dental hygienists so that they can continue to treat underserved populations. Finally, the bill allows OHA to approve pilot projects for training and certifying community dental health coordinators to educate the community on dental health.

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