

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
<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>	3/30, 4/20

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires health insurance policies to reimburse nurse practitioners (NPs) at the same rate as is paid under the policy to a licensed physician performing the service in the area served. Applies to services provided both in-network and out-of-network for contracts dated or renewed after the effective date of passage. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- NP scope of practice
- Number of NPs in Oregon
- Role of NPs in health care transformation
- Referral rate of NPs versus physicians

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Clarifies reimbursement requirements.

**BACKGROUND:** NPs are nurses with specialized graduate-level study within the specific scopes of practice for which they are licensed. NPs practice independently and are increasingly becoming the primary care provider for many people. Although NPs provide many of the same services as primary care physicians, they are often reimbursed at a lower rate by health insurers.

Senate Bill 858-A requires health insurers to reimburse NPs the same amount as is paid under the health insurance policy to licensed physicians performing the service in the area served.