

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 4 - 1 - 0

Yeas: Bates, Kruse, Morse, Monnes Anderson

Nays: Shields

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Brian Nieubuurt, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/28, 4/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Permits a supervising physician or supervising physician organization to apply to the Oregon Medical Board (OMB) for dispensing authority for physician assistants (PAs). Requires OMB to adopt rules establishing standards and qualifications for PAs with dispensing authority that require: (a) PAs to complete a drug dispensing training program; and (b) supervising physicians to provide a drug delivery and control plan, submit an annual report, and submit a list of drugs the PA will dispense. Clarifies that a PA may not dispense controlled substances classified in schedules I through IV. Removes limitation providing that the Oregon State Board of Nursing may grant dispensing authority only to nurse practitioners in areas that lack readily available access to pharmacy services. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Universe and types of drugs to be prescribed
- Laws in Washington and California
- Purpose of prohibiting PAs from dispensing controlled substances classified in schedules I through IV
- Availability and role of pharmacies
- Public health and patient safety concerns
- Role of the Board of Pharmacy

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Clarifies that a PA may not dispense controlled substances classified in schedules I through IV.

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 952-A allows PAs to be granted dispensing authority. Current law allows PAs to be granted emergency dispensing authority for drugs prepared or prepackaged by a licensed pharmacist, manufacturing drug outlet or wholesale drug outlet. The bill also removes a limitation on the dispensing authority of nurse practitioners that requires a lack of readily available access to pharmacy services.