

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 6 - 2 - 0
Yeas: Doherty, Hoyle, Kennemer, Parrish, Greenlick, Thompson
Nays: Conger, Keny-Guyer
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 2/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires insurers to reimburse nurse practitioners at same rate as physicians for same services. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Background on recent reductions in reimbursement rates to nurse practitioners
- Impact on patient access to providers
- Current scope of practice for nurse practitioners
- Negative impact on other “non-physician” providers and reductions in reimbursement rates
- Concerns relating to insurers’ reduction in overall reimbursement rates
- Impact of this legislation on the overall transformation and health care reform efforts in Oregon
- Concerns relating to increased premium costs to policyholders
- Background on House Bill 3028 (2011)
- Current contracting practices with physicians

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Nurse Practitioners (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 primary care providers for many people. Since 2009, insurers have been reducing reimbursement rates for NPs, beginning with psychiatric mental health NPs and moving into primary care NPs. The proponents assert that equitable reimbursement for NPs will improve access to Oregonians and will provide fair treatment to NPs that operate independent practices.