

**HB 3407**

**Relating to the Traditional Health Workers Commission**

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House Bill 3407 establishes the 19-member Traditional Health Workers Commission within the Oregon Health Authority. Traditional health workers include community health workers, peer wellness specialists, personal health navigators, and doulas. This skilled workforce plays a vital role in facilitating health care access to rural and other underserved communities in Oregon, while addressing healthcare disparities and improving health outcomes. Current law requires that members enrolled in Oregon’s Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) have access to traditional health workers to facilitate culturally and linguistically appropriate care. Existing law requires the Oregon Health Authority to adopt rules for the purpose of regulating this workforce. HB 3407 formalizes an existing working committee converting it into a 19-member Traditional Health Workers Commission to serve in an advisory role to the Oregon Health Authority in creating rules to define appropriate training and other competency standards for traditional health workers.

The Capital Construction Subcommittee recommends HB 3407 be reported out “do pass”.

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Gallegos  
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Monnes Anderson

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Fiscal:** Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

**Action:** Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure

**Vote:**

House

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc:

Senate

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc:

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**Meeting Date:** July 3, 2013

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Establishes Traditional Health Workers Commission within Oregon Health Authority (OHA). Requires OHA Director appoint members of commission. Replaces references to “community” workers with “traditional.” Requires director to ensure board membership represents geographic, ethnic, gender, racial, disability status, gender identity, sexual orientation and economic diversity of traditional health workers. Requires OHA adopt rules for criteria and education requirements, appropriate professional designations and processes for approval of classifications for coordinated care organizations to use with respect to traditional health workers.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Fiscal impact

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** House Bill 3650 (2011) mandated that members enrolled in Oregon’s coordinated care organizations (CCOs) have access to Traditional Health Workers to facilitate culturally and linguistically appropriate care. The bill also requires the Oregon Health Authority, in consultation with the appropriate health professional regulatory boards and advocacy groups, to develop and establish training requirements and other competency standards for community health workers, personal health navigators, peer wellness specialists, and other health care workers.

House Bill 3407 creates the Traditional Health Workers Commission and tasks it with creating rules to define criteria and education for health care workers not licensed by the state. Traditional health workers include community health workers, personal health navigators, peer wellness specialists and doulas. The purpose of the rules is to create standards for otherwise unregulated health practices which CCOs can use as they build networks to serve Oregon’s Medicaid population.