

**PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****CARRIER:**

House Committee on Health Care

**REVENUE: No revenue impact****FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Tyler Larson, Administrator**Meeting Dates:**

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Changes definition of “physician” to include podiatrist for purpose of subjecting podiatrists to statutes regulating physicians. Changes definition of “retired physician” to include retired podiatrist for purpose of volunteer service immunity. Changes definition of “physician” to include podiatrist for purposes related to patient and physician privilege. Requires medical services contract to protect advocacy of podiatrist.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Podiatrists were accidentally left out of prior legislation in which podiatrists were not included in the definition of “physician,” making it difficult for podiatrists to serve their patients in certain circumstances

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** (-1 Amendment) Clarifies the use of “physician” to describe podiatrist. Moves the definition of “podiatry.”

**BACKGROUND:** Podiatry is a branch of medicine devoted to the foot, ankle and lower extremity. A Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (podiatrist) is a medical specialist who receives training in anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, sociological and psychological perspectives, general medicine, surgery and pharmacology; similar to the training of a Medical Doctor. As currently defined in the ORS, “physician” does not include individuals licensed to practice as podiatrists.