

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 9 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Clem, Conger, Harker, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer, Lively, Thompson, Weidner, Greenlick

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Tyler Larson, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Provides health professional regulatory boards discretion to authorize licensees regulated by board to self-refer to impaired health professionals programs in which board participates.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Proponents assert that the bill would simply allow a board to opt out of the self-referral program if they so desire, though no one has yet expressed that desire
 - The statute monitors practitioners who are impaired and requires reporting to regulatory boards for certain specified actions
 - Proponents encourage the committee to consider incentives for impaired licensees to seek treatment
- Committee noted concerns with balancing public protection and allowing professionals ability to perform their duties

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: In 2009, House Bill 2345 was enacted, which requires the establishment of a statewide confidential monitoring program for health professional licensees who are unable to practice with professional skill and safety due to substance use disorder or a mental health disorder. Four health boards currently participate in the Health Professionals' Services Program (HPSP) administered by the Oregon Health Authority and the Department of Human Services. In order to participate in HPSP, boards currently must allow licensees to self-refer.