

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
Vote:	9 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Gallegos, Gilliam, Gorsek, Greenlick, Harker, Huffman, Johnson, Whisnant, Dembrow
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Victoria Cox, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/18, 4/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Provides for education loans to students pursuing advanced degrees necessary to manage medical clinics. Provides loan forgiveness to such students who agree to manage medical clinics in underserved areas.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for professional clinic managers in underserved areas
- Lack of available education financing programs
- Difficulty of recruiting and retaining qualified clinic managers

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Currently, ORS 348.310 authorizes the Oregon Student Access Commission (OSAC) to provide loans to qualified students seeking degrees in medicine and osteopathic medicine who indicate a desire to practice in underserved areas of the state. If the individual who receives the loans practices medicine for at least two years in an underserved area, one year of loans may be forgiven for each year of subsequent practice.

House Bill 2178 expands this program to include students pursuing advanced degrees required to manage a medical clinic and provides OSAC with rulemaking authority to implement the expansion.