

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote:	4 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Kruse, Shields, Steiner Hayward, Monnes Anderson
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Knopp
Prepared By:	Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/7, 5/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows certain boards to adopt rules under which boards may require persons authorized to practice profession regulated by boards to receive cultural competency continuing education. Requires boards to document participation in specified education. Becomes operative January 1, 2017. Requires Oregon Health Authority develop list of approved continuing education opportunities and provide list to boards on or before January 1, 2015. Provide that public universities and community colleges may require persons authorized to practice profession regulated by board, and who provide services to students at health care facilities located on campus of public university or community college, provide proof of participating in continuing education opportunity relating to cultural competency. Becomes operative January 1, 2017. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of health professionals equipped to serve clients of diverse backgrounds
- Professional boards administering and reporting
- Oregon Health Authority's role
- Continuing education expenses
- Impact of cultural competency training

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: According to data provided by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), disproportionate distribution of burdens and access to health care creates racial and ethnic health inequities. OHA asserts that health equity is achieved by developing health-promoting strategies tailored to meet the unique needs of the various population groups.

Proponents assert that creating cultural competency continuing education opportunities allows boards to better prepare licensees in providing more effective service and improving health outcomes. House Bill 2611-A directs certain health professional regulatory boards to require licensees to document participation in continuing education opportunities relating to cultural competency.