

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass with Amendments to the A-Engrossed Measure. (Printed B-Engrossed)

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Knopp, Kruse, Shields, Steiner Hayward, Monnes Anderson

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/9, 5/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires insurers to reimburse physician assistants and nurse practitioners in independent practice at same rate as physicians for same services. Defines independent practice. Establishes 13-member Task Force on Primary Care Reimbursement Parity. Specifies members, directives and duties. Directs task force to report to 2014 and 2015 Legislative Assembly. Establishes January 2, 2018, sunset date. Declares emergency; specifies January 1, 2014 operative date for contracts renewed or entered into.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for payment reform
- Reimbursement parity impact on healthcare industry
- Education and training requirements for physicians, certified nurse practitioners and physician assistants
- Differences between urban and rural healthcare access
- Personal experiences with reimbursement rates
- Proposed amendment

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Establishes 13-member Task Force on Primary Care Reimbursement Parity. Specifies members, directives and duties. Directs task force to report to 2014 and 2015 Legislative Assembly. Establishes January 2, 2018 sunset date. Adds emergency clause, and specifies January 1, 2014 operative date for contracts renewed or entered into.

BACKGROUND: A Certified Nurse Practitioner (NP) is an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse who has completed graduate level education. A Physician Assistant (PA) is a healthcare professional trained to practice medicine as part of a team with a physician. Both NPs and PAs conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illness, order and interpret tests, prescribe medications and counsel on preventive health care. Proponents assert that reduced reimbursement rates for NPs and PAs have threatened practices that provide primary care services to under-served communities in Oregon.

House Bill 2902-B requires insurers reimburse NPs and PAs in independent practice for primary care services at the same rate as physicians to contracts entered into or renewed on or after January 1, 2014 and before January 1, 2018. Additionally, the measure removes the pay requirements for licensed physician assistants effective January 2, 2018.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.