

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – Senate: Sen. Monnes Anderson

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass the B-Engrossed Measure

Vote: 24 – 1 – 1

House

Yeas: Barker, Buckley, Frederick, Freeman, Hanna, Huffman, Jenson, Komp, McLane, Nathanson, Read, Smith, Tomei, Williamson

Nays:

Exc: Richardson

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Devlin, Edwards, Hansell, Johnson, Monroe, Steiner Hayward, Thomsen, Whitsett, Winters

Nays: Girod

Exc:

Prepared By: Kim To, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: May 31, 2013

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires insurers to reimburse physician assistants and nurse practitioners in independent practice at same rate as physicians for same services. Establishes 13-member Task Force on Primary Care Reimbursement Parity. Specifies members, directives and duties. Directs task force to report to 2013 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. Defines independent practice.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Fiscal impact
- Bill specifies that an insurer may not reduce the reimbursement paid to a licensed physician in order to comply with the requirements of this bill

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

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 to NPs and PAs in independent practice for primary care services as physicians when the same services under the same policy are provided.