

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

Senate Committee on Senate Health Care

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Zena Rockowitz, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Clarifies definition of independent practice. Requires that insurance reimbursement of primary care or mental health services by physician assistants and certified nurse practitioners in independent practice uses the national provider identifier of the physician assistant or nurse practitioner or facility in which physician assistant or nurse practitioner provides services.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND: A Certified Nurse Practitioner (NP) is an advanced practice 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. The Joint Interim Task Force on Primary Care and Mental Health Reimbursement found that in 2009, a number of health insurance carriers cut reimbursement for non-physician providers, particularly in mental health and primary care. In 2013, House Bill 2902 was signed into law to ensure that insurance reimbursement rates for primary care and mental health services provided by NPs and PAs in independent practice was equal to that of physicians providing the same services under the same policy.