

**PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Senate Health Care

**REVENUE: May have revenue impact, statement not yet issued****FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Zena Rockowitz, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 3/30

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Appropriates \$450,000 for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, for the Oregon Healthcare Workforce Institute and Oregon Center for Nursing for data collection and analysis of performance and effectiveness of programs to encourage healthcare providers to practice with underserved populations or rural areas. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:****EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

**BACKGROUND:** Many rural communities and specific population groups in Oregon do not have an adequate number of health care providers to meet their needs, particularly in the areas of primary care and dental services. There are federal and state programs which exist to try to bring resources to these areas. Some programs in place include the Medicaid Primary Care Loan Repayment Program which provides funding to providers who serve Medicaid patients in underserved areas. The Oregon State Loan Forgiveness provides funding and makes loans to students in rural medical training programs. The Scholars for Healthy Oregon Initiative covers tuition and fees for students in medical education.

The Office for Oregon Healthy Policy and Research is required to advise the Oregon Health Policy Board, the Oregon Health Authority, the Governor, and Legislature on the healthcare workforce. It contracts with the Oregon Center for Nursing and the Oregon Healthcare Workforce Institute to analyze data from health professional licensing boards and evaluate the health care workforce in order to appropriately target Oregon's resources. It was recently asked to report on incentive programs designed to encourage providers to practice with underserved populations. Senate Bill 757 aims to incorporate these recommendations.