

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

Senate Committee on Workforce

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Matthew Germer, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 4/8, 4/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes process for random selection of physician from list of qualified physicians maintained by Director of Department of Consumer and Business Services for medical examinations in workers' compensation claims.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Perception of relationship between insurer and medical reviewer under current system

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

(-1) Requires establishment of process for out-of-state independent medical examinations.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon workers' compensation system provides benefits to workers who are injured or acquire an illness on the job. Upon request by a workers' compensation insurer, claimants must undergo an independent medical examination (IME) by a physician. Currently, under Oregon law, any provider performing a workers' compensation IME must be pre-approved by the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS). A workers' compensation insurer has the discretion to select any pre-approved provider to perform an IME.

Senate Bill 701 establishes a process for the random selection of an IME physician from a list of qualified physicians maintained by DCBS.