

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, 4/20

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
- Usage and regulation of workers' compensation independent medical examinations
- History of independent medical examination legislation
- Coordination with specialists
- Frequency of independent medical examinations (10% of cases, per State Accident Insurance Fund)
- Frequency of claimant complaints
- Attention to physician preferences by claimants
- Workers' compensation training for physicians

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. Under certain circumstances, claimants may 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.