

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

Senate Committee on Senate Health Care

**REVENUE: No revenue impact****FISCAL: No fiscal impact****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Zena Rockowitz, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 4/22, 5/20

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Modifies the definition of “health care interpreter” to include sign language interpreters. Revises the membership of the Oregon Council on Health Care Interpreters to include a health care interpreter. Prohibits the use of the title “Oregon certified health care interpreter” without specific requirements. Clarifies qualifications and certification requirements. Modifies health care data reporting requirements. Changes Oregon Health Policy and Research to Oregon Health Authority. Modifies qualifications for Public Health Officer. Removes references to Blue Mountain Recovery Center. Aligns references relating to screening interviews and treatment programs for alcohol and drug diversion programs.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Numerous training organizations and national-level boards established over last decade for interpreters
- Role of Oregon Health Authority to provide registry, ensure qualifications are met, and increase utilization of interpreters in medical settings
- Importance of linguistically-appropriate care

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Amendment A6:** Resolve conflict if Senate Bill 230 becomes law. Repeals section regarding health care workforce database, which lists specific information to be collected.

**BACKGROUND:** Health care interpreters facilitate communication between patients with limited English proficiency (LEP) and their physicians, nurses, lab technicians and other healthcare providers. In 2001, a 25-member Health Care Interpreter Council was established to ensure the development of competent and accessible language access services. The landscape has changed and the stakeholders are different, and many of the original agencies that were assigned to participate are either inoperative or no longer fall under the scope of the Council. The Blue Mountain Recovery Center in Pendleton, Oregon closed on March 31, 2014 and is no longer a facility delivering services. House Bill 2419-A removes all statutory references to the Center. Current statute provides that a physician certified by the American Board of Preventive Medicine can be appointed as the State Public Health Officer. There are other physicians with other qualifications and experience that could perform the State Public Health Officer functions. House Bill 2419-A expands the qualifications and experience so a qualified individual could be appointed.