

HB 3396

Relating to health care provider incentive programs

The health care provider shortage in rural and medically-underserved communities in the United States is widespread and projected to get worse. Oregon spends approximately \$30 million each year on various incentive programs to recruit and retain qualified health care providers to rural and medically-underserved areas of the state. However, it is unclear if this spending of tax dollars is producing the best results. HB 3396 is intended to initiate a holistic evaluation of these incentive programs while ensuring the stability of critical programs currently serving rural and medically underserved areas.

The bill requires the Oregon Health Policy Board in the Oregon Health Authority to study the effectiveness of current financial incentives with the aim of developing recommendations to consolidate, restructure, repeal or continue existing incentive efforts to ensure that state incentive programs are coordinated to produce desired results; are adaptable to changes in the health care field as well as to Oregon's changing socio-economic landscape; and are effectively leveraging federal and private funding sources.

The Subcommittee recommends a \$180,000 General Fund appropriation to OHA to conduct this study. OHA is required to submit its final recommendations by September 1, 2016.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends HB 3396 be amended by the -A22 amendment and be reported out do pass as amended.