

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee On Health Care

MEASURE: SB 282 A
CARRIER: Sen. Monnes Anderson

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact
Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/11/15
Action: Do Pass With Amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)
Meeting Dates: 02/11
Senate
Yeas: 5 - Knopp, Kruse, Steiner Hayward, Shields, Monnes Anderson

Prepared By: Zena Rockowitz, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Clarifies using the title "Nurse." Prohibits use of title "Nurse" unless individual has earned a nursing degree or nursing certificate from an accredited nursing program and is licensed by a health professional regulatory board to practice the particular health care profession in which the nursing degree or certificate was earned. Gives Oregon Board of Nursing authority to notify district attorney.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- "Nurse" is ubiquitous term
- Gallup poll reports that public has high level of trust of nurses
- Public is not always aware of who has qualifications and credentials to use the title "Nurse"
- Nothing to prohibit advertising or false use of title "Nurse"

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Adds language to nursing professional chapter (ORS 678) to prohibit an individual to use the title "Nurse."

BACKGROUND:

The title "Nurse" has grown to be generically used by a variety of personnel with varying health care experience. For example, assistive personnel taking blood pressure and temperature do not need to be registered and licensed nurses. As such, if a patient took medical advice from such a person, a patient could view that as medical advice from a nurse. Patients are not always aware of the classifications, and this can impact patient safety. There is nothing in statute to specify that use of the title "Nurse" is prohibited without license and degree, and therefore anyone can advertise, provide services, and use the title without penalty.