

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

MEASURE: HB 2419 A
CARRIER: Rep. Weidner

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact
Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/18/15
Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.
Meeting Dates: 02/06, 02/18

House
Yeas: 8 - Buehler, Clem, Greenlick, Hayden, Weidner, Keny-Guyer, Lively, Nosse
Exc: 1 - Kennemer

Prepared By: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Committee Administrator

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:

- Technical provisions of the measure
- Concerns relating to health care interpreters
- Importance of training and certification requirements
- The need for appropriate and qualified healthcare interpreters
- Proposed amendment

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Adds sign language interpreters and includes spoken or sign language. Prohibits the use of the title “Oregon certified health care interpreter” without specific requirements. Clarifies qualifications and certification requirements.

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.