

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

MEASURE: SB 547 A
CARRIER: Sen. Monnes Anderson

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/25/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Meeting Dates: 02/11, 02/25

Vote:

Yeas: 4 - Knopp, Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Shields

Exc: 1 - Steiner Hayward

Prepared By: Zena Rockowitz, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits Oregon State Board of Nursing (Board) to issue nurse emeritus license to certified registered nurse anesthetists, certified registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, nurse practitioners, or clinical nurse specialists who have been granted retired status by Board. Permits licensees to engage in nursing on voluntary or non-compensatory basis. Requires Board to establish rules for annual license fee and method to determine competency required to practice nursing. Establishes that Board may take action prior to operative date of January 1, 2016. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Retired nurses are not able to practice as volunteers despite shortage of medical providers
- Physicians have physician emeritus license available to them
- Board has received several requests from retired nurses who want to continue to serve
- Volunteer positions would be available in health fairs, churches, and homeless shelters

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces certified registered nurse with “clinical nurse specialist.”

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon State Board of Nursing (Board) grants retired status to nurses who surrender their license or certificate and are in good standing with no pending disciplinary actions or investigations. Retired status nurses are prohibited from practicing nursing. The Board reports that since 2010, 744 nurses have been given this designation. During the same time, 1,758 registered nurses and licensed practical nurses over the age of 65 years have allowed their licenses to expire. The federal Health Resources Services Administration projects that by 2025, Oregon will have a shortage of 6,000 registered nurses and 390 licensed practical nurses.