

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

MEASURE: SB 153
CARRIER: Sen. Knopp

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/25/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 02/25

Vote:

Yeas: 4 - Knopp, Monnes Anderson, Shields, Steiner Hayward

Exc: 1 - Kruse

Prepared By: Zena Rockowitz, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Clarifies insurance reimbursement of primary care or mental health services by physician assistants and certified nurse practitioners in independent practice. Requires use of national provider identifier of the physician assistant, nurse practitioner or facility in which physician assistant or nurse practitioner provides services.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Intention of House Bill 2902 B (2013) was to create payment parity for physician assistants and nurse practitioners
- Sometimes claims are billed using the clinic's national provider identifier, instead of the provider's national provider identifier, and in at least one case the provider couldn't be reimbursed at full rate
- Oregon Insurance Division cannot enforce law as currently written

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

A certified Nurse Practitioner (NP) is an advanced practice nurse who has completed graduate level education. A Physician Assistant (PA) is a healthcare professional trained to practice medicine as part of a team with a physician. Both NPs and PAs conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illness, order and interpret tests, prescribe medications and counsel on preventive health care. The Joint Interim Task Force on Primary Care and Mental Health Reimbursement found that in 2009, a number of health insurance carriers cut reimbursement for non-physician providers, particularly in mental health and primary care. In 2013, House Bill 2902 B was signed into law to ensure that insurance reimbursement rates for primary care and mental health services provided by NPs and PAs in independent practice (seeing their own patients) was equal to that of physicians providing the same services under the same policy.