

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

**MEASURE: SB 279**  
**CARRIER: Sen. Steiner Hayward**

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:** 03/04/15

**Action:** Do Pass.

**Meeting Dates:** 02/09, 03/04

**Vote:**

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

Nays: 1 - Shields

**Prepared By:** Zena Rockowitz, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Establishes the Oregon Medical Board (OMB) as semi-independent state agency. Alters selection of candidates for Doctor of Osteopathy and Podiatry membership. Instructs OMB to adopt budget and present to Governor, Secretary of Senate, Speaker of House of Representatives, Senate President, and Legislative Fiscal Officer. Directs Legislative Fiscal Officer to submit OMB's adopted budget to Joint Committee on Ways and Means, which may require OMB to appear at a hearing to request amendments. Directs OMB to adopt fees and post a copy of budget, audits, and material changes on website. Abolishes OMB account and transfers balance to account established by OMB, to be appropriated to OMB. Eliminates requirement that, prior to adopting fees and charges, OMB receives prior approval by the Oregon Department of Administrative Services and reports to Emergency Board. Specifies that OMB can make rules regarding personnel. Allows for transitional provisions. Creates an operative date of July 1, 2015. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Oversight and accountability to the Legislature, Governor, and public
- Ability to operate more efficiently
- Physicians assistants on the Oregon Medical Board (OMB)
- Cost control
- Shortens budget process

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Oregon Medical Board (OMB) was created in 1889. Its mission is to protect the health, safety, and wellbeing of Oregon citizens by regulating the practice of medicine in a manner that promotes access to quality care. Statutory provisions (ORS Chapter 182) for semi-independent state agencies include the following: 1) Adopt and modify budgets on a biennial basis after a public hearing; 2) Prepare annual financial statements for review by public and the Oregon Department of Administrative Services; 3) Fix a per-diem amount to be paid to Board members; 4) Set the amount of any fee to be collected as required by statute and rule; 5) Deposit money into an account established by the Board and invest moneys collected or received; 6) Receive the same benefits of state employees for directors and employees of the Board; 7) Submit a report to the Governor, Secretary of Senate, Speaker of House of Representatives, Senate President, and Legislative Fiscal Officer on audits, budget, material changes, public hearing process, fees, rules, Board activities promoting consumer protection, and licenses; 8) Select and appoint an administrator; 9) Adopt personnel policies, contracting and purchasing procedures and requirements concerning licenses; and, 10) Contract with state agencies for performance of duties, functions and powers as the Board considers appropriate.