

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/13/15

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

Meeting Dates: 04/06, 04/13

Vote:

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

Exc: 1 - Kruse

Prepared By: Zena Rockowitz, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Adds physician assistant or retired physician assistant to Oregon Medical Board. Requires selection from list of three to five candidates submitted by Oregon Society of Physician Assistants by February 1. Repeals Physician Assistant Committee. Staggers terms for board members by three years, instead of four.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Physician assistants do not have representation on the board that regulates them
- Physician assistants practice collaboratively with physicians and are primary care providers
- Dissolution of Physician Assistant Committee

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Repeals Physician Assistant Committee. Permits physician assistant appointment to be retiree. Staggers terms for board by three years, instead of four.

BACKGROUND:

Membership on the Oregon Medical Board includes seven Doctors of Medicine, two Doctors of Osteopathy, one Doctor of Podiatric Medicine and two members of the public representing health consumers. The physician assistant profession is licensed and regulated by the Oregon Medical Board. Physician assistants are trained medical professionals who, under the supervision of licensed physicians, provide patient-centered medical care services on a health care team. Physician assistants play a role in primary care delivery and take medical histories, perform physical examinations, diagnose illnesses, order and interpret diagnostic tests, develop treatment and management plans, set fractures, assist in surgeries and educate patients. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the physician assistant profession is growing, resulting in an expected increase in jobs by 38 percent between 2012 and 2022.