

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**House Committee On Health Care****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 04/17/15**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments, Be Printed Engrossed And Be Referred To Ways And Means By Prior Reference.**Meeting Dates:** 03/30, 04/17**Vote:**

Yeas: 8 - Buehler, Greenlick, Hayden, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer, Lively, Nosse, Weidner

Exc: 1 - Clem

Prepared By: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Committee Administrator**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Combines the Primary Care Provider Loan Repayment Fund and the Primary Health Care Loan Forgiveness Fund, and other moneys into the Health Care Provider Incentive Fund (Fund). Transfers the primary care provider loan repayment program from the Oregon Health Authority to the Office of Rural Health (Office). Directs the Office to convene an advisory committee. Specifies committee membership and directives. Directs the advisory committee to evaluate and report to the Office of Rural Health on the effectiveness and cost efficiency of the tax credits and to study and evaluate the feasibility of and the tax and legal implications of creating a retirement plan to offer licensed health care practitioners as an incentive. Removes the Oregon Health and Science University Scholars for a Healthy Oregon language. Adds naturopathic physicians to list of participants. Clarifies that funds are to be transferred from the Primary Care Provider Loan Repayment Fund to the Health Care Provider Incentive Fund on or after January 1, 2015; and funds prior to January 1, 2015 are deposited to the Oregon Health Authority Fund. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need to create a combined healthcare provider fund
- Combined incentives to improve outcomes and efficiency
- Greater flexibility
- Tool to attract practitioners and students
- Proposed amendments

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Directs the advisory committee to evaluate and report to the Office of Rural Health on the effectiveness and cost efficiency of the tax credits and to study and evaluate the feasibility of and the tax and legal implications of creating a retirement plan to offer licensed health care practitioners as an incentive. Removes the Oregon Health and Science University Scholars for a Healthy Oregon language. Adds naturopathic physicians to list of participants. Clarifies that funds are to be transferred from the Primary Care Provider Loan Repayment Fund to the Health Care Provider Incentive Fund on or after January 1, 2015; and funds prior to January 1, 2015 are deposited to the Oregon Health Authority Fund.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon has a number of financial incentives to recruit and retain healthcare providers, particularly for primary care and for rural and underserved areas. Incentives include loan forgiveness, scholarships, tax credits, and others. Each is separately funded, without the flexibility to respond to the needs of the marketplace as some incentives may become more effective. The different programs receive state or federal funds. The patchwork nature of these programs means that the overall effectiveness of incentives is hard to measure, and a lack of coordination means that it is difficult to respond to changing needs.