

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 05/18/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 05/18

Vote:

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

Abs: 1 - Clem

Prepared By: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, 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 the January 1, 2016 operative date. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current process for retired nurses
- Retired nurses volunteering for no compensation
- Board of Nursing to create a method of determining competency
- Retired nurses numerous requests

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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.