

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

---

**Action Date:** 05/20/15

**Action:** Do Pass.

**Meeting Dates:** 05/20

**Vote:**

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

Exc: 1 - Weidner

**Prepared By:** Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Committee Administrator

---

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Increases the Oregon Medical Board (OMB) from 12 to 13 members. Adds physician assistant or retired physician assistant to OMB. 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:**

- Current board member composition
- Physician assistants not represented
- Increasing role of physician assistants in providing care
- Dissolution of Physician Assistant Committee

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**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.