

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/02/16

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

Meeting Dates: 02/02

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Knopp, Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Shields, Steiner Hayward

Prepared By: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Removes the January 1, 2018 sunset date, making the requirement that an insurer reimburse licensed physician assistants and certified nurse practitioners for primary care services at the same rate as a licensed physician for the same services.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Positive outcomes for providers receiving reimbursement equality
- Outstanding concerns
- Need to evaluate payment models
- Additional amendment needed on the House side

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Directs the Department of Consumer and Business Services and the Oregon Health Policy Board to collect NP and PA reimbursement data from insurers on reimbursement. Outlines information to be included and the report is due no later than January 31, 2017.

BACKGROUND:

In 2009, several insurance companies decreased reimbursement rates for mental health services that were being provided by non-physician providers. Additionally, nurse practitioners and physician assistants in primary care began receiving reduced reimbursement payments. In response to those reductions, House Bill 2902 (2013) was enacted that required insurers to reimburse nurse practitioners and physician assistants at the same rate as physicians for the same services according to the customary and usual fee for physicians in the area served; and prohibited insurers from negotiating different rates with physician assistants and nurse practitioners. Additionally, the bill contained a January 1, 2018 sunset date as well as created a 13-member Task Force on Primary and Mental Health Care Reimbursement which was charged with evaluating and making recommendations on payment reform and alternative payment methodologies.