

SB 857 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 3/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows the Oregon Medical Board (OMB) to issue a provisional license to practice medicine if certain requirements are met. Takes effect, January 1st, 2018.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

For decades, the issue of an adequate supply of health professionals to meet the needs of underserved areas and populations has been a part of the national discussion around health care. To address Oregon's inadequate supply of health care providers, the state created the Oregon Office of Rural Health in 1979, and then, the Oregon Primary Care Office. Through these two offices, Oregon has also established a number of federally and state funded programs to recruit and retain providers in rural and underserved communities to address the unmet health care needs of underserved Oregonians. Even with the state's current workforce programs, a recent study using Oregon data indicated that the available supply of physicians is unable to meet the current as well as the projected demand for health care services.

In Oregon, only two medical schools offer degrees in Doctor of Medicine and Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine. Every year, Oregon medical schools graduate individuals with medical degrees; however, a small number of these people are unable to be matched into a residency program through the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP).

Currently, individuals without residency training are not able to practice medicine in Oregon. Senate Bill 857 would allow the Oregon Medical Board to issue a provisional license to individuals with a medical degree (MD) to practice medicine with the supervision of a licensed provider (MD) in underserved communities in Oregon.