

SB 856 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 3/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows naturopathic physicians (NDs) to perform a number of activities medical doctors (MDs) are currently authorized and licensed to perform in Oregon. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

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:

In the United States, the scope of practice of licensed health care professions is statutorily defined in each state's laws in the form of a practice act, and are often the underlying licensing requirements. Defining scopes of practice for health care professions in statute provides the state with public policy control over the range of services licensed health care professions may provide. State legislatures, including Oregon's have the authority to modify practice acts; therefore, changing a particular scope of practice of a healthcare profession. Such changes are often the result of advancements in the education, training, and technology in health care.

Health care providers in Oregon must be licensed by the state to practice their professions. Licensing requirements include meeting specific education, experience and competency standards. In Oregon, the Board of Naturopathic Medicine licenses and regulates naturopathic physicians. The Oregon Medical Board licenses medical doctors (MDs), doctors of osteopathic medicine (DO), and doctors of podiatric medicine (DPM), among several other health professions. Senate Bill 856 would expand the scope of practice for naturopathic physicians in Oregon.