

SB 423 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 2/23, 3/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits physician assistants to dispense schedules III and IV under federal Controlled Substances Act. Takes effect January 1, 2018.

REVENUE: No revenue impact.

FISCAL: Minimum fiscal impact.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Federal and state regulatory guidelines for dispensing controlled substances; geographic differences in Oregon
- Over prescription of opioid drugs
- Use of Oregon's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) by Zoom+Care providers, physicians and physician assistants (PAs)

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The federal Controlled Substances Act places all drugs into five schedules based on medical use, the potential for abuse, safety or dependence liability. Oregon's current law prohibits physician assistants from dispensing drugs in schedules I through IV unless drugs are administered to groups, federally designated, as underserved or disadvantaged. Schedule III drugs have moderate to low potential for physical and psychological dependence (e.g., anabolic steroids, testosterone, Sudafed, and Tylenol with codeine). Schedule IV drugs have a low potential for abuse and low risk of dependence (e.g., Ambien, Tramadol and Xanax). The Oregon Medical Board (OMB) establishes standards and qualifications for physician assistants with dispensing authority.

SB 423 allows physician assistants to prescribe and administer drugs under schedules III and IV of the federal Controlled Substances Act.