

SB 217 -6 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 2/9, 3/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Adds chiropractic and naturopathic physicians to the current definition of health care professional. Grants authority to issue medical releases as required to allow student athletes to participate in an athletic event or training after exhibiting symptoms of a concussion. Emergency clause; effective upon passage.

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

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Core competencies, training, and certification process for health professionals to issue a medical release in Oregon
- Medical liability for health professionals that provide medical releases in Oregon
- Expand the types of health care professionals able to provide medical releases
- Phase in implementation of the program and its requirements

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

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- Expands list of qualified health professionals
- Changes the term "medical doctor" to "physician"
- Requires qualified health professionals to have liability insurance
- Requires qualified health professionals to complete online course approved by professional regulatory board
- Requires regulatory boards to issue certificate based on specified criteria
- Requires re-certification every three years

BACKGROUND:

In the United States, sport and recreational activities are the third-leading cause of traumatic brain injury for children and adolescents, often a concussion. As a result of increasing national awareness, new guidelines and recommendations have emerged that seek to inform coaches, athletic trainers and teachers when a student should return to activities after a sports-related head injury. State and local government have enacted laws to govern return-to-play guidelines after a young athlete exhibits a concussion. Such laws often require an athlete to complete a medical evaluation by a qualified health care professional before returning to play.

Oregon law encourages each school district to provide training to individuals who train or instruct athletic teams (ORS 336.485). Senate Bill 217 adds chiropractic and naturopathic physicians to the definition of health professionals that can issue a medical release in Oregon.