

SB 786 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 3/30, 4/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines the use of telehealth. Requires Oregon's professional regulatory boards to allow health professionals to use telehealth in an appropriate manner.

REVENUE: No revenue impact.

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Federal patient privacy and security laws
- Compliance of teledentistry in Oregon with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 Replaces the measure. Allows dental providers licensed by the Oregon Board of Dentistry (OBD) to use telehealth if appropriate and within a provider's scope of practice.

BACKGROUND:

The Board of Dentistry, created by an act of the Legislature on February 23, 1887, protects the public from unsafe, incompetent or fraudulent practitioners and to encourage licensees to practice safely and competently in the best interests of their patients. The board does this by testing the competency of applicants through written and clinical examinations; requiring continuing education of all licensees; investigating complaints and enforcing the provisions of the Dental Practice Act and rules of the board; communicating board policies and other pertinent information to all licensees on a regular basis; acting as a resource to consumers in determining the adequacy of their dental treatment; and working with other health care boards and associations to develop partnerships for forging a viable health care delivery system.

In recent years, dental providers have started using information technology to provide diagnostic, preventive and early intervention services in community-based sites (e.g. school and nursing homes). Dental providers collect electronic dental records, such as radiographs, photographs, charts of dental findings, and dental and medical histories, with portable imaging equipment and an internet-based dental record system. The dental provider then uploads the information to a secure website that lets a supervising dentist review and establish a diagnosis and treatment plan for the hygienist or assistant to carry out. Patients who need more complex care is referred to the dentist for those services.

Senate Bill 786 allows health care providers to use telehealth in Oregon when determined appropriate and within their scope of practice.