

## **SB 856 -2, -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **Senate Committee On Health Care**

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**Prepared By:** Oliver Droppers, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/14, 4/13

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Allows naturopathic physicians (NDs) to perform a number of activities medical doctors (MDs) and other licensed health care professionals are currently authorized to perform in Oregon.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Barriers to care for patients
- Potential ambiguity in Oregon law in use of the terms “provider” and “health care professional”

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-2 Removes reference to medical professional liability insurance (ORS 676.550). Removes reference to complementary health services (ORS 750.005). Adds naturopathic physicians to health care providers able to determine need for hospice care for terminally ill patients (Or Laws 2015, ch 819, § 3).

*REVENUE: No revenue impact.*

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

-3 Removes reference to naturopathic physicians as qualified health care professionals able to clear a student to return to play after experiencing a concussion from participating in school sports (ORS 336.485 and ORS 417.875).

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

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

#### **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 change the scope of practice for naturopathic physicians in Oregon.