

HB 3261 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

Action Date: 03/21/17

Action: Without recommendation as to passage and be referred to Health Care.

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Gorsek, Keny-Guyer, Meek, Nearman, Noble, Olson, Piluso, Sanchez, Stark

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to collaborate with the Office of Rural Health to develop a uniform application form for all health care provider financial incentive programs and maintain a corresponding website. Requires OHA to collect demographic information to evaluate effectiveness of financial incentive programs. Modifies eligibility requirements for rural medical care tax credit and health care provider incentive program for rural or medically underserved areas. Repeals tax credit for medical staff at rural hospitals with 50 or more beds. Effective 91st day following *sine die*.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Re-referral to another committee

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon currently implements health care provider incentive programs for health care providers working in rural locations and providing primary care in medically underserved areas. These programs are designed to provide subsidies, loan repayment, and tax credits to eligible health care practitioners. A report published by the Oregon Health Policy Board found that approximately 1,800 health care professionals claim the rural provider tax credit for any given tax year.

House Bill 3261 requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to collaborate with the Office of Rural Health to develop a uniform application form for all health care provider financial incentive programs and maintain a website with corresponding information. The measure requires OHA to collect demographic information on participants including year of entry into the financial incentive program, location and duration of service, specialty, size of practice, percentage of telemedicine, and other demographic information.

House Bill 3261 also modifies the eligibility requirements for the rural medical care tax credit by expanding the number of eligible health care providers, basing the credit amount on the geographic area of active practice and adding an additional tax credit for certified health professional preceptors. The measure also modifies the health care provider incentive program to include those who commit to serving Medicare enrollees and expands the incentives provided to include loan repayment, stipends, scholarships, and funds to establish new primary care residency positions. Finally, House Bill 3261 repeals the tax credit for medical staff at rural hospitals with 50 or more beds.