

SB 786 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Hayden

House Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 05/08/17

Action: Do Pass the A-Eng bill.

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Alonso Leon, Buehler, Greenlick, Hack, Hayden, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer, Malstrom, Nosse

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Oregon Board of Dentistry (OBD) to allow dental care providers to use telehealth when the provider determines it is appropriate. Requires the OBD to treat provisions of the dental care services in the same manner regardless of the method of delivery of the dental care services.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Teledentistry as an additional tool for dentists
- The role of teledentistry for rural communities
- Additional access for Oregon Health Plan clients
- Provisions of the measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Board of Dentistry protects the public from unsafe, incompetent or fraudulent practitioners and encourages 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., schools and nursing homes). Dental providers now collect electronic dental records, such as radiographs, photographs, charts of dental findings, and dental and medical histories, with portable imaging equipment using an Internet-based dental record system. Dental providers then upload the information to a secure website that allows a supervising dentist to review and establish a diagnosis and treatment plan for mid-level dental providers to carry out or are referred to a dentist for more complex treatments.

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