

SB 293 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Prepared By: Tamara Dykeman, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/11, 3/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates the Indian Health Scholarship Program for members of federally-recognized Indian tribes who enroll in health profession degree programs at Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU). Requires scholarships to cover tuition and fees. Directs OHSU to give preference to Oregon federally-recognized tribal members and Oregon residents in awarding scholarships. Requires recipients to work as health professionals at tribal service sites after completing program. Requires repayment for failure to meet terms of service. Appropriates funding to OHSU to administer scholarship program. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Tribal health and dental centers
- Importance of culturally competent providers
- Removing barriers to students from diverse backgrounds
- Rural health needs
- Including College of Osteopathic Medicine Program Pacific-Northwest in the scholarship program

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon has nine federally-recognized tribes. Indian tribes provide health-care services to their members through tribal-operated clinics in their communities. The tribal health clinics are supported through tribal, federal and state sources. In 2017, the legislature introduced a similar bill, SB 911. This bill passed out of the Senate Education Committee with a do-pass recommendation and was referred to the Joint Ways and Means (JWM) committee. It was still in the JWM committee when session adjourned.