

SB 740 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 2/13, 3/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires health benefit plans that provide coverage of radiation therapy for cancer to cover proton beam therapy on a basis no less favorable than other covered benefits. Clarifies that health benefit plans providing coverage of intravenously administered or injected cancer medication or coverage of prescription drugs for the treatment of cancer must provide coverage on a basis that is no less favorable than other covered benefits.

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

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Legislation in Tennessee
- Current health benefit plan coverage of proton beam therapy in Oregon

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Replaces measure. Requires that a health benefit plan that provides radiation therapy for the treatment of cancer to provide coverage of proton beam therapy for the treatment of cancer on a basis no less favorable than the coverage of radiation therapy.

BACKGROUND:

Proton therapy is a type of radiation therapy that uses high-energy beam to treat tumors. The therapy has been used to treat complex tumors, such as those in the prostate, brain, eye, and cancers in children.

Senate Bill 740 requires health benefit plans that cover radiation therapy for cancer treatment to also cover proton beam therapy.