

SB 129 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Sen. Monnes Anderson**Senate Committee On Health Care**

Action Date: 02/25/19
Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)
Vote: 3-0-2-0
Yeas: 3 - Fagan, Linthicum, Monnes Anderson
Exc: 2 - Beyer, Knopp
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
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Meeting Dates: 1/28, 2/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows licensed optometrists to engage in the practice of telemedicine under specified conditions. Defines "eye examination," "optometric clinical health care services," "store and forward," "telehealth," and "telemedicine." Requires optometrist to establish patient-provider relationship with the patient that includes an in-person eye examination prior to engaging in the practice of telemedicine. Defines permissible practice of telemedicine by optometrists operating through online platform. Allows the Oregon Board of Optometry to adopt rules related to the practice of telemedicine. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Examples of telehealth use in optometry
- Partnership practices between optometrists and ophthalmologists
- Importance of in-person eye exams
- Application to optometrists licensed in other states

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Defines "optometric clinical health care services," "store and forward," and "telehealth." Clarifies permissible practice of telemedicine by licensed optometrist.

BACKGROUND:

The World Health Organization (WHO) has broadly defined telemedicine as, "The delivery of health care services, where distance is a critical factor, by all health care professionals using information and communication technologies for the exchange of valid information for diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease and injuries, research and evaluation, and for the continuing education of health care providers, all in the interests of advancing the health of individuals and their communities." Initially popular in the field of radiology, telemedicine has recently spread to other fields, particularly as a way to increase access to services. In Oregon, the practice of optometry is defined as the "use of any means other than invasive or laser surgery, or the prescription of Schedule I and II drugs or pharmaceutical agents that are not on the optometric nontopical formulary, for diagnosis and treatment in the human eye, for the measurement or assistance of the powers or range of human vision or the determination of the accommodative and refractive states of the human eye or the scope of its functions in general or the adaptation of lenses or frames for the aid thereof." (ORS 683.010(3)).

Senate Bill 129-A defines permissible telemedicine practices for optometrists licensed in Oregon.