SB 293 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date:	03/11/19
Action:	Do pass and refer to Ways and Means by prior reference.
Vote:	4-0-1-0
Yeas:	4 - Gelser, Hass, Heard, Wagner
Exc:	1 - Thomsen
Fiscal:	Fiscal impact issued
Revenue:	No revenue impact
Prepared By:	Tamara Dykeman, LPRO Analyst
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 and Science 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 heath 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, Senate Bill 911. The 2017 Senate Education Committee referred the bill to the Joint Ways and Means (JWM) committee with a do-pass recommendation. The measure was in the JWM committee when the 2017 session adjourned.