

HB 2231 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Wagner

Senate Committee On Workforce

Action Date: 05/09/19

Action: Do pass the A-Eng bill.

Vote: 3-1-0-1

Yeas: 3 - Golden, Monnes Anderson, Taylor

Nays: 1 - Knopp

Abs: 1 - Hansell

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Ellen Osoinach, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/30, 5/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Provides right to health care interpreters paid by the State of Oregon to collectively bargain with State of Oregon.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Effect of having third-party agencies as primary contractors with State
- Medical interpreters' role in public health
- Experience of State of Washington which has similar law

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Interpreters are hired by public entities in the health care system. Health care interpreters provide communication services to people with limited English proficiency and typically contract with private companies that are under contract with the State of Oregon to provide interpreter services. Proficiency standards are set in statute for qualified and certified health care interpreters, and the Legislative Assembly has stated that it is the policy to require the use of certified or qualified health interpreters whenever possible. ORS 413.552.

House Bill 2231-A allows health care interpreters who are paid by the State of Oregon the right to collectively bargain as though they are public employees governed by the Public Employees Collective Bargaining Act (PECBA). The measure specifies that these interpreters are not for any other purpose to be considered employees of the State or any other public body. Should they decide to organize, all health care interpreters in the state will be in the same bargaining unit.