

**SB 740 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Rep. Barreto

**House Committee On Health Care**

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**Action Date:** 05/23/19

**Action:** Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. (Printed B-Eng.)

**Vote:** 11-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 11 - Alonso Leon, Boles, Drazan, Greenlick, Hayden, Keny-Guyer, Mitchell, Noble, Nosse, Prusak, Salinas

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Oliver Droppers, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 4/18, 5/23

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires carriers that offer health benefit plans that cover radiation therapy for the treatment of cancer to also cover proton beam therapy for the treatment of cancer. Authorizes carriers to utilize prior authorization and other utilization coverage of proton beam therapy.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Cancer treatment modalities
- Coverage of proton beam by Oregon insurers; Medicare, Medicaid, commercial, and employer-sponsored health plans
- Existing coverage of proton beam therapy as an essential health benefit in accordance with the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) versus expansion or new mandate
- Review of proton beam therapy for medical effectiveness by the Health Evidence Review Commission
- Absence of proton beam therapy in Oregon
- Travel and related costs to access out-of-state treatment

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Authorizes carriers to require prior authorization and/or impose other requirements to manage utilization of coverage of proton beam therapy.

**BACKGROUND:**

Proton beam therapy is a type of radiation therapy that uses high-energy beams to treat tumors. Proton beams can be delivered with more control than other forms of radiation, allowing the safe delivery of higher doses. The therapy has been used to treat complex tumors, such as those in the prostate, brain, eye, and cancers in children.

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