

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 1549 - 7

80th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2020 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Directs Oregon Board of Dentistry to issue dental therapist license to qualified applicant.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Board of Dentistry (OBD), Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure are indeterminate at this time - See explanatory analysis.

Analysis:

SB 1549 with the -7 amendment requires the Oregon Board of Dentistry (OBD) to license a new category of dental practitioners by issuing two new licenses:

1. A license to practice dental therapy.
2. A limited license to practice dental therapy.

OBD is required to approve a written dental therapy exam and authorizes the Board to determine dates and locations of the examination and the deadline by which an applicant must apply to sit for the exam. In adopting rules to administer the dental therapy licensure, the Board is required to consult with stakeholders including the State Dental Director, the Oregon Health Authority Tribal Affairs Director, representatives of each dental pilot project, institutions of higher education in Oregon.

Oregon Board of Dentistry (OBD)

The fiscal impact of this bill to OBD is indeterminate. The measure will require OBD staff and resources to implement this new category of practitioners. The fiscal assumes that OBD will establish fees to offset the cost of licensing and regulating this new category of practitioners. The amount of those fees would be set by rule and the fee amount would require subsequent approval by the legislature. In accordance with ORS 291.055 (SB 333, 1995) the fees would require subsequent approval by the legislature.

Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

The fiscal impact of this bill to OHA is indeterminate. The establishment of a new provider type is expected to increase utilization of services. However, the amount of increased utilization cannot be quantified at this time.