

SB 705 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Prepared By: Oliver Droppers, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Increases representation on the Oregon Medical Board from one to three physician assistants. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Medical Board's (Board) mission is to protect the health, safety, and well-being of Oregonians by regulating the practice of medicine. The Board licenses medical doctors, doctors of osteopathic medicine and podiatric medicine, physician assistants, and acupuncturists. According to Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) Health Care Workforce Reporting Program, in 2020, there were approximately 17,000 licensed medical doctors and 2,200 licensed physician assistants.

Each member is appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the Oregon Senate, and selected for a three-year term, with the opportunity to participate in a second term, for a total of six years. All persons appointed must be residents of Oregon. Ten members are physicians (seven Doctors of Medicine (MDs), two Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine (DOs), and one Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM). In 2016, a Physician Assistant (PA) was added as a member of the Board. In 2019, Senate Bill 61 added a third public member to the Board, bringing the public member representation in line with other health care professional boards. Currently, the Board is comprised of 14 members.

Senate Bill 705 increases representation on the Oregon Medical Board by physician assistants from one to three members.