

HB 3030 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 3/8, 3/22, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes licensed optometrist to prescribe and administer vaccines and epinephrine and diphenhydramine injections. Directs Oregon Board of Optometry to approve training course on prescription and administration of vaccines.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Expanding access to vaccines
- Optometrist training
- COVID-19 pandemic

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Increases the age of which a licensed optometrist can administer a vaccine from three years to seven years of age.

REVENUE: statement issued - no revenue impact.

FISCAL: statement issued - no fiscal impact.

BACKGROUND:

According to the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) (Oct. 2018), optometrists are state-licensed health care professionals, specializing in eye health, who examine, diagnose, and treat various conditions of the visual system including diseases, injuries, and disorders. Optometrists receive a Doctor of Optometry (OD) degree after four years of professional education at a school of optometry. An Ophthalmologist is a medical doctor (MD) specializing in eye and vision care with additional medical training including a MD. Ophthalmologists can treat all eye diseases, perform eye surgery, and prescribe and fit eyeglasses or contacts. According to the Oregon Health Care Workforce Reporting Program, in 2020, there were approximately 822 licensed optometrists in Oregon.

Proper vaccine administration is critical to ensure that vaccination is safe and effective. States permit different health professionals to administer vaccines, including medical assistants; midwives; nurses in advanced practice and registered, practical, and vocational nurses; physician assistants; and pharmacists.

House Bill 3030 allows licensed optometrists to voluntarily provide vaccines in Oregon.