

## **SB 640 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **Senate Committee On Health Care**

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**Action Date:** 03/10/21

**Action:** Do pass and requesting referral to Ways and Means.

**Vote:** 4-1-0-0

**Yeas:** 4 - Beyer, Knopp, Manning Jr, Patterson

**Nays:** 1 - Heard

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**Meeting Dates:** 2/3, 3/10

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Establishes Indian Health Scholarship Program, administered by Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU), to provide free tuition and fees for qualifying Indian health profession students in exchange for student commitment to work at tribal service site after graduation. Appropriates moneys to OHSU for administration of Program. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2021.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Senate Bill 293 (2019) and Senate Bill 2 (2013)
- Health disparities affecting American Indian and Alaskan Native communities
- Other Oregon health care provider incentive programs
- Increasing access to culturally competent care

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Oregon Health and Science University's Office of Rural Health partners with the Oregon Health Authority and the Health Resources Service Administration (HRSA) to offer provider incentive programs to support underserved communities recruit and retain high quality providers. Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes currently have 11 Rural Indian/Tribal Clinics that provide health care services to tribal members.

Senate Bill 640 establishes the Indian Health Scholarship Program to provide free tuition and fees to Indian health profession students in exchange for a commitment to work at a tribal service site after graduation.