

SB 705 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 04/12/21

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

Vote: 4-0-1-0

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

Exc: 1 - Heard

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/8, 4/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Increases representation of physician assistants on the Oregon Medical Board from one to three members. Increases public membership from three to four members. Requires that no terms be staggered so that no more than six terms end in each year. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Role of the Oregon Medical Board (OMB)
- Composition, size, and representation of members who serve on the OMB
- Clarification OMB members are not to serve as advocates for their individual professions
- Number of practicing physician assistants in Oregon
- Citizen participation on the Oregon Medical Board

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Increases Oregon Medical Board public membership from three to four. Requires that no terms be staggered so that no more than six terms end in each year.

BACKGROUND:

The mission of the Oregon Medical Board (OMB) is to protect the health, safety, and well-being of Oregonians by regulating the practice of medicine. The OMB 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 of the OMB 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 OMB. In 2019, Senate Bill 61 added a third public member, bringing the public member representation in line with other health care professional boards. Currently, OMB is comprised of 14 members.

Senate Bill 705 A increases representation on the Oregon Medical Board by physician assistants from one to three members and increases public membership from three to four members.