

HB 2528 A -A10 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Prepared By: Brian Nieubuurt, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Board of Dentistry (Board) to issue dental therapist license to qualified applicant. Limits dental therapy licensure to graduates of dental pilot project education programs until January 1, 2025. Specifies examination requirements to dental therapy license applicants. Prohibits unlicensed use of title “dental therapist” and practice of dental therapy and specifies exceptions. Allows Board to charge fees related to dental therapist licensure. Specifies elements of required collaborative agreement between dental therapist and supervising dentist. Specifies dental therapist scope of practice. Specifies permitted supervision ratios for dentists to dental therapists and dental therapists to dental assistants and expanded function dental assistants. Authorizes dental therapists to dispense and orally administer specified drugs. Requires dental therapists to purchase and maintain liability insurance. Requires dental therapists to dedicate at least 51 percent of practice to patients who represent underserved populations or practice in dental health professional shortage areas. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

House Vote: Passed. Ayes, 38; Nays, 17 (Bonham, Boshart Davis, Breese-Iverson, Cate, Drazan, Hayden, Levy, Moore-Green, Morgan, Post, Reschke, Smith G, Stark, Wallan, Wilde, Wright, Zika); Excused, 3 (Clem, Leif, Nearman); Excused for Business of the House, 2 (Evans, Lewis)

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A10 **Replaces measure.** Clarifies licensure qualification requirements. Removes January 1, 2025 limitation on dental therapy licensure for graduates of dental pilot project education programs. (**Section 3**) Clarifies dental therapist practice area requirements (**Section 10**).

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 738 (2011) authorized the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to approve pilot projects encouraging the development of innovative practices in oral health delivery focusing on populations that have the highest disease rates and least access to dental care. In February 2016, OHA approved Pilot Project #100 ("Oregon Tribes Dental Health Aide Therapist Pilot Project") to develop a new category of dental personnel in Oregon and teach new oral health care roles to previously untrained individuals. The Pilot Project authorized the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board to utilize the Alaska Dental Health Aide Therapist (DHAT) program that has been providing services in Alaska for 11 years. The Alaska DHAT program is modeled off the international model of dental nurses who have been providing oral health services in nearly 100 countries around the world.

Several states have passed legislation authorizing the practice of dental therapy, including Maine, Vermont, Connecticut, Minnesota, Michigan, New Mexico, Arizona, and Nevada. In August 2020, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) accredited Ilisagvik College in Alaska to become the first dental therapy training program in the United States.

House Bill 2528 A creates dental therapy licensure in Oregon through the Oregon Board of Dentistry.

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.