HB 4006   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates:	2/4, 2/7, 2/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires individual and group health insurance policies to reimburse services provided by naturopathic physicians within scope of their practice if services are reimbursed when provided by licensed physicians. Requires reimbursement paid to naturopathic physician in independent practice to be in same amount as reimbursement paid to physician.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians, naturopathic doctors diagnose, prevent, and treat acute and chronic illness to restore and establish optimal health by supporting the person\'s inherent self-healing process. Naturopathic doctors work to identify the underlying causes of illness and develop personalized treatment plans to address them. Naturopathic medical education curricula includes the same biomedical and diagnostic sciences as medical doctors (MDs) and osteopathic doctors (DOs) while also receiving education in additional areas such as clinical nutrition, acupuncture, homeopathic medicine, botanical medicine, physical medicine, and counseling. According to Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) Health Care Workforce Reporting Program, in 2020, there were approximately 1,000 licensed naturopathic physicians in Oregon. In 2013, the Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 2902 which requires health insurers to reimburse physician assistants and nurse practitioners at the same rate as physicians when providing the same services.

House Bill 4006 requires individual and group health benefit plans to reimburse naturopathic physicians at the same rate as physicians if the services provided by the naturopathic physician are covered by the plan when provided by a physician.