

SB 559 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 3/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Oregon State Veterinary Medical Examining Board, at the time of issuing or renewing a license, to provide the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) with licensing information for each person licensed and authorized to prescribe or dispense controlled substances. Directs OHA to allow (or authorize) veterinary licensees to report information to, or receive information from, the prescription drug monitoring program established under ORS 431A.855. Adds a practicing veterinarian, nominated by an association representing veterinarians, to the Prescription Monitoring Program Advisory Committee (PMPAC). Reduces PMPAC seats for members of the public who are experts in information technology from two to one.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) was established by the Legislative Assembly in 2011 with the goal of reducing the number of deaths in Oregon related to controlled substance, including the misuse of prescription drugs. The program requires pharmacies to submit prescription data to the PDMP system for all Schedule II, III and IV controlled substances, gabapentin, and naloxone. Licensed healthcare providers access the PDMP system to determine appropriate medications to prescribe.

Beginning in 2018, the Secretary of State's Oregon Audits Division has recommended inclusion of veterinarians in the PDMP as a strategy to limit opioid misuse and abuse ([link](#) to 2018 report). The Audits Division found that the Oregon Veterinary Medical Examining Board's monitoring of controlled substances needs to be strengthened ([link](#) to 2019 report), and that including veterinarian prescriptions in the PDMP would provide insight about prescribing habits and pet owners obtaining controlled substances ([link](#) to 2022 report).

Senate Bill 559 requires the Oregon State Veterinary Medical Examining Board to provide licensee information to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and directs OHA to allow veterinarians to report to and receive information from the Oregon's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.