

HB 2996 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 2/13, 3/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits Oregon Board of Dentistry from requiring dental assistant applicants to pass written application for radiological proficiency beginning January 1, 2024. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- States not requiring testing of radiological proficiency for dental assistants
- Passage rates for radiological proficiency exam
- Risk level for dental x-rays
- Liability for administration of dental x-rays
- Equity concerns with radiological proficiency exam

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Prohibits the Oregon Health Authority from requiring dental assistant to pass written examination in adopting rules related to X-ray operator training requirements for dental assistants.

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

BACKGROUND:

Dentists commonly use radiology, or X-rays, to aid in the evaluation of teeth, roots, jaw placement, and facial bone composition. X-rays can help identify problems not seen in an oral examination and facilitate early treatment. The Oregon Board of Dentistry regulates the practice of dentistry in the state, including the licensing of dentists, dental hygienists, and dental therapists. In Oregon, dental assistants are not licensed, but must be certified to take x-rays or perform other expanded functions. Current Oregon Administrative Rules allow licensed dentists to authorize certified dental assistants to place films/sensors, adjust equipment preparatory to exposing films/sensors, and expose the films and create the images under general supervision. Dental assistants who have completed a course of instruction approved by the Oregon Board of Dentistry and passed the written Dental Radiation Health and Safety Examination administered by the Dental Assisting National Board, or comparable exam, may perform the same duties under the indirect supervision of a dentist, dental therapist, dental hygienist, or dental assistant who holds an Oregon Radiologic Proficiency Certificate.

House Bill 2996 would prohibit the Oregon Board of Dentistry from requiring dental assistant applicants to pass written application for radiological proficiency beginning January 1, 2024.