

SB 797 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 3/6, 3/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines “orthotic device” and “prosthetic device.” Requires all individual and health insurance policies that reimburse the cost of hospital, medical, or surgical services or supplies to cover prosthetic and orthotic device determined to be medically necessary for activities of daily living or job-related activities. Requires the Department of Consumer and Business Services to adopt and annually update rules listing the prosthetic and orthotic devices that are covered. Excludes devices that are solely for comfort or convenience. Requires coverage of services related to devices, including measurement and fitting, patient instruction, and repair.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Definitions of orthotic and prosthetic devices
- Technology in devices
- Medicare coverage standards

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Clarifies that health plans must “provid[e] coverage for the expenses of” rather than “reimburse the cost of” orthotic and prosthetic devices.

BACKGROUND:

Orthotic and prosthetic devices enable people with physical impairments or functional limitations to participate in education, work, and social activities. Orthotic devices include braces and splints. Prosthetic devices include artificial legs and hands. Orthotics and prosthetics are “Essential Health Benefits” under the Affordable Care Act.

Senate Bill 797 directs the Department of Consumer and Business Services to adopt and update a list of orthotic and prosthetic devices that must be covered by health plans in Oregon along with services including measurement and fitting, instruction, and repair.