

SB 232 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 4/17, 4/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Clarifies circumstances permitting out-of-state physician or physician assistant to provide care to patient located in Oregon. Clarifies that practice of medicine using telemedicine occurs at physical location of patient. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

SENATE VOTE: Ayes, 28; Nays, 2

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Increase in telemedicine use during COVID-19 pandemic
- Other states adopting similar exceptions for telemedicine

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Medical Board (OMB) regulates the practice of medicine in Oregon, including licensing medical doctors (MD), doctors of osteopathic medicine (DO), doctors of podiatric medicine (DPM), physician assistants (PA), and acupuncturists (LAc). During the COVID-19 public health emergency, state and federal governments extended additional flexibilities to the practice of telemedicine in order to facilitate the delivery of health care services as the sector dealt with social distancing, workforce limitations, and other pandemic-related challenges.

Senate Bill 232 would clarify the permitted practice of medicine over state lines by further defining the circumstances allowing out-of-state physicians and physician assistants to provide care to patients located in Oregon and specifying that the practice of medicine using telemedicine occurs where the patient is physically located.