

HB 3412 A -A2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Labor and Business

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Meeting Dates: 4/20, 4/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows physician assistants to provide compensable medical services and authorize payment of temporary disability benefits under same rules as nurse practitioners for workers' compensation claims. Makes conforming and technical amendments.

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

HOUSE VOTE: Ayes, 56; Nays 0

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Limited providers in certain parts of Oregon
- Impact on workers
- Reason for current limitation on physician assistants

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A2 Limits application to physician assistants described in ORS 656.005(12)(b)(C). Makes conforming amendments.

BACKGROUND:

Workers' compensation insurance provides medical treatment and lost wages to employees or their dependents in the case of employment-related accidents or illnesses. Oregon employers are required to carry workers' compensation insurance or be self-insured.

Almost all Oregon employers are covered by workers' compensation, but employees are eligible for benefits regardless of whether their employers are in compliance with the law. The law specifies the types of employees who are not required to have workers' compensation insurance coverage, including certain corporate officers, partners, and family-member business owners, as well as independent contractors. Employers can purchase insurance from the State Accident Insurance Fund (SAIF) Corporation (a publicly owned nonprofit company) from a private insurance company, or be self-insured.

The Workers' Compensation Division (Division) is a part of the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS). The Division administers Oregon workers' compensation system. Additionally, the Workers' Compensation Management Labor Advisory Committee (MLAC) reviews key components of the workers' compensation system, such as advising DCBS about any proposed changes to the Workers' Benefit Fund. The Workers' Benefit Fund provides benefits for a number of programs, such as return-to-work programs.

House Bill 3412 A allows physician assistants to provide compensable medical services and authorize payment of temporary disability benefits under the same rules as nurse practitioners for workers' compensation claims.