

HB 3223 A -A5, -A6, -A8, -A14 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Prepared By: Maya Green, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/19, 4/26, 5/10, 5/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits Oregon Board of Dentistry (OBD) from requiring applicant for certification as dental assistant of any type to pass written examination. Requires OBD to adopt rules to establish alternative pathways to certification, including allowing licensed dentist to provide written attestation confirming completion of alternative pathway requirements. Specifies expanded functions that dental assistants may perform upon attestation confirming completion of alternative pathway requirements. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

Ayes, 40; Nays, 15--Breese-Iverson, Cate, Cramer, Elmer, Evans, Goodwin, Hieb, Lewis, Mannix, McIntire, Morgan, Reschke, Stout, Wallan, Wright; Excused, 3--Boshart Davis, Levy B, Scharf; Excused for Business of the House, 2--Helm, Owens

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Education and training needed for certification and practice of dental assistants
- Community college dental assistant programs in Oregon
- Workforce issues including equity, barriers to entry, and retention of dental assistants
- Accessibility of examination for people who speak languages other than English
- Participation of dental assistants in policymaking process regarding the profession

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A5

Replaces the measure. Establishes the Task Force on Dental Assisting Workforce Shortage with membership including legislators and dental health professionals. Directs the Task Force to make a report to the Legislative Assembly with recommendations no later than September 15, 2024.

-A6 Replaces the measure. Directs the Oregon Board of Dentistry to convene a work group of at least five members to make recommendations to the Board regarding workforce issues related to dental assistants.

-A8 Replaces the measure. Allows the Oregon Board of Dentistry to require an applicant for certification to pass a written examination so long as the examination is administered by a dental education program that is accredited by the American Dental Association and offered in, at minimum, in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Prohibits requirement of more than one written examination for certification for dental assistants.

-A14 Replaces the measure. Allows the Oregon Board of Dentistry to require an applicant for certification to pass a written examination approved by the Board so long as the examination is administered by a program that is either accredited or approved by the American Dental Association to provide continuing education. Requires the exam to be offered in, at minimum, in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Prohibits requirement of more than one written examination for certification for dental assistants. Directs the Board of Dentistry to convene an advisory committee of at least seven members to study the dental assistant workforce shortage and to review the requirements for dental assistant certification in other states. The committee must include a majority of members who have experience working as dental assistants. In appointing members to the committee, the Board of

Dentistry will prioritize diversity of geographic representation, background, culture, and experience.

BACKGROUND:

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 3223 A prohibits the Oregon Board of Dentistry from requiring dental assistant certification applicants pass a written examination and requires the Board to adopt rules establishing alternative pathways to certification.