

**HB 2626 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care**

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**Action Date:** 03/27/23

**Action:** Do pass with amendments and be referred to Tax Expenditures by prior reference.  
(Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 9-0-2-0

**Yeas:** 9 - Bowman, Conrad, Diehl, Goodwin, Morgan, Nelson, Nosse, Pham H, Tran

**Exc:** 2 - Dexter, Javadi

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** Revenue impact issued

**Prepared By:** Brian Nieubuurt, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/7, 3/27

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Adds licensed naturopathic physicians, pharmacists, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, licensed professional counselors or marriage and family therapists, and certified medical laboratory scientists or medical laboratory technicians to types of providers eligible for rural medical provider tax credit. Applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2022. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Value of tax credits in recruiting providers to rural areas

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Adds licensed naturopathic physicians and pharmacists to eligible provider types. Removes eligibility criteria limiting eligibility for optometrists based on having consulting privileges with a hospital.

**BACKGROUND:**

Many medical practitioners who provide care in rural parts of the state are eligible for a tax credit based on the distance from a major population center where their practice is based. In addition to being based in a rural area, the practitioner must remain willing to serve Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries. The credit is available to practitioners licensed as certified registered nurse anesthetists, dentists, doctors of medicine, doctors of osteopathic medicine, nurse practitioners, optometrists, physician assistants, and podiatrists.

House Bill 2626 A adds licensed naturopathic physicians, pharmacists, psychologists, mental health professional and certified medical laboratory scientists and technicians to provider types eligible for rural medical provider tax credit and removes criteria limiting eligibility for optometrists based on having consulting privileges with a hospital.