

SB 232 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Dexter

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Action Date: 05/10/23

Action: Do Pass.

Vote: 9-1-1-0

Yeas: 9 - Bowman, Conrad, Dexter, Diehl, Goodwin, Javadi, Nosse, Pham H, Tran

Nays: 1 - Morgan

Exc: 1 - Nelson

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Brian Nieubuurt, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/17, 5/10

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.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Increase in telemedicine use during COVID-19 pandemic
- Other states adoption of 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 clarifies 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 in Oregon and specifying that the practice of medicine using telemedicine occurs where the patient is physically located.