

HB 3223 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Prepared By: Brian Nieubuurt, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/13, 3/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits Oregon Board of Dentistry (OBD) from requiring applicant for certification as dental assistant to pass written examination. Requires OBD to adopt rules to establish alternative pathways to certification. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current written examination requirements for dental assistants

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Clarifies applicability of certification provisions to any type of dental assistant, including expanded function dental assistants. Removes time restriction on completion of required procedures. Clarifies allowed dentist certification of alternative pathway completion by dental assistant.

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

REVENUE: No revenue impact

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Board of Dentistry regulates the practice of dentistry in the state, including the licensing of dentists, dental hygienists, and dental therapists. 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 would prohibit the Oregon Board of Dentistry from requiring dental assistant certification applicants pass a written examination and would require the Board to adopt rules establishing alternative pathways to certification.