

HB 2190 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 1/31

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines eye examination and telemedicine. Allows licensed optometrists to practice telemedicine if certain conditions are met. Allows the Oregon Board of Optometry to consult with the Oregon Medical Board to adopt rules. Declares emergency, takes effect on passage.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Optometrists are trained health care professionals that conduct eye exams, vision tests, prescribe and dispense corrective eye wear, prescribe medications, among other treatments and services. Telemedicine is the practice of medicine using technology to provide care to a patient at a distant location. Telehealth refers more broadly to the use of technology to support long-distance health care as well as non-clinical services such as provider training and continuing medical education. The types of health care professionals licensed or authorized to provide telemedicine services varies within a state as does the ability to practice telemedicine across states. Coverage of and reimbursement for types of telemedicine services differs among payers including Medicare, Medicaid, and private health plans.

House Bill 2190 allows licensed optometrists to provide services through telemedicine.