

SB 740 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Hansell

Senate Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 03/13/19

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 3-0-2-0

Yeas: 3 - Beyer, Linthicum, Monnes Anderson

Exc: 2 - Fagan, Knopp

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/13, 3/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires that a health benefit plan that provides radiation therapy for the treatment of cancer must provide coverage of proton beam therapy for the treatment of cancer on a basis no less favorable than the coverage of radiation therapy.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Legislation in Tennessee
- Current health benefit plan coverage of proton beam therapy in Oregon

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND:

Proton therapy is a type of radiation therapy that uses high-energy beams to treat tumors. Proton beams can be delivered with more control than forms of radiation, allowing the safe delivery of higher doses to tumors. The therapy has been used to treat complex tumors, such as those in the prostate, brain, eye, and cancers in children.

Senate Bill 740-A requires health benefit plans that cover radiation therapy for cancer treatment to also cover proton beam therapy.