

SB 129 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Rep. Keny-Guyer**House Committee On Health Care****Action Date:** 04/30/19**Action:** Do Pass the A-Eng bill.**Vote:** 10-0-1-0**Yeas:** 10 - Alonso Leon, Drazan, Greenlick, Hayden, Keny-Guyer, Mitchell, Noble, Nosse, Prusak, Salinas**Exc:** 1 - Boles**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Oliver Droppers, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 4/23, 4/30**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Allows licensed optometrists to engage in the practice of telemedicine under specified conditions. Requires optometrist to establish patient-provider relationship with the patient that includes an in-person eye examination prior to engaging in the practice of telemedicine. Defines permissible practice of telemedicine by optometrists operating through online platform. Allows the Oregon Board of Optometry to adopt rules related to the practice of telemedicine. Defines terms. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of patient safety related to eye care
- Clinical standards of care in delivering telemedicine

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Telehealth is the use of technology to deliver health care, health information, or health education at a distance. There are three types of telehealth applications in use: real-time communication through use of video or telephone; store-and-forward involving the transmission of data, sound, or video for evaluation; and remote patient monitoring that allows patients to collect health data and transfer the data to a remote provider for monitoring. In recent years, states have enacted legislation to promote telehealth as a tool to improve access to care and address workforce gaps. Policies range from defining telehealth, to determining if services are to be covered and reimbursed through public and private payers, to interstate compacts and licensure of providers that reduce barriers to providing telehealth services and promote cross-state practice by health care professionals.

Oregon law defines telemedicine as being delivered via two-way electronic communication, including VOIP (voice over Internet protocol), audio, video, or transmission of telemetry, allowing health professionals to interact with patients at a different location.

Senate Bill 129-A defines permissible telemedicine practices for optometrists.