

SB 1550 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 2/18, 2/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows expanded practice dental hygienists to perform interim therapeutic restorations after diagnosis by a dentist. Defines "interim therapeutic restoration." Requires that authorization to perform interim therapeutic restorations be included in agreement between expanded practice hygienist and supervising dentist. Requires Oregon Board of Dentistry to utilize curriculum, training protocols, and learning outcomes through Oregon Health Authority's dental pilot project program in adopting rules. Grandfathers expanded practice dental hygienists currently practicing under a dental pilot project to continue to perform interim therapeutic restorations until rules are adopted. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Scope of practice for expanded practice dental hygienists
- Use of local anesthetic (topical and injectable) by expanded practice dental hygienists
- Children's lack of access to oral health services
- School-based oral health prevention programs and pilot projects in rural localities

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 738 (2011) authorized the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to approve pilot projects encouraging the development of innovative practices in oral health delivery focusing on populations that have the highest disease rates and least access to dental care. OHA's Dental Pilot Project #200 (Training Dental Hygienists to Place Interim Therapeutic Restorations) was approved in June 2017. The pilot project allowed expanded practice dental hygienists (EPDHs) to implement telehealth-connected oral health teams to reach children who have not been receiving dental care on a regular basis and to provide community-based dental diagnostic, prevention and early intervention services, including utilization of interim therapeutic restorations (IRT) when indicated by the supervising dentist (often referred to as scoop-n-fill or non-drilling fillings) which serve as temporary fillings on decayed teeth to prevent further decay. The use of IRT by EPDHs can increase access to care in rural settings or for children that lack access to routine dental care.

Senate Bill 1550-A allows expanded practice dental hygienists to perform interim therapeutic restoration.