

## **HB 2528 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **House Committee On Health Care**

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**Prepared By:** Brian Nieubuurt, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/4

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Directs Oregon Board of Dentistry (Board) to issue dental therapist license to qualified applicant. Specifies examination requirements to dental therapy license applicants. Prohibits unlicensed use of title “dental therapist” and practice of dental therapy and specifies exceptions. Allows Board to charge fees related to dental therapist licensure. Specifies elements of required practice agreement between dental therapist and supervising dentist. Specifies dental therapist scope of practice. Authorizes dental therapists to dispense and orally administer specified drugs. Adds dental therapist member to Board. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

*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:**

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. In February 2016, OHA approved Pilot Project #100 ("Oregon Tribes Dental Health Aide Therapist Pilot Project") to develop a new category of dental personnel in Oregon and teach new oral health care roles to previously untrained individuals. The Pilot Project authorized the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board to utilize the Alaska Dental Health Aide Therapist (DHAT) program that has been providing services in Alaska for 11 years. The Alaska DHAT program is modeled off the international model of dental nurses that have been providing oral health services in nearly 100 countries around the world.

Several states have passed legislation authorizing the practice of dental therapy, including Maine, Vermont, Connecticut, Minnesota, Michigan, New Mexico, Arizona, and Nevada. In August 2020, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) accredited Ilisagvik College in Alaska to become the first dental therapy training program in the United States.

House Bill 2528 creates dental therapy licensure in Oregon through the Oregon Board of Dentistry.