

HB 2088 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 3/2, 3/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates new category of traditional health worker for tribal traditional health worker and defines "tribal traditional health worker." Adds tribal traditional health worker to Traditional Health Worker Commission (Commission) and increases membership.

REVENUE: No revenue impact.

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Unique value of tribal traditional health workers
- Provider shortages in tribal communities
- Importance of culturally responsive care and tribal-based practices
- Training of traditional health workers working in tribal communities

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Traditional Health Workers (THWs) are trusted individuals from their local communities who may also share socioeconomic ties and lived life experiences with health plan members. THWs have historically provided person and community-centered care by bridging communities and the health systems that serve them, increasing the appropriate use of care by connecting people with health systems, advocating for health plan members, supporting adherence to care and treatment, and empowering individuals to be agents in improving their own health. THW types currently include: community health workers, peer support specialists, peer wellness specialists, personal health navigators, and doulas. House Bill 3027 (2013) established the Traditional Health Worker Commission to promote Oregon's traditional health workforce to achieve Oregon's Triple Aim of better health, better care, and lower costs. The Commission advises and makes recommendations to the Oregon Health Authority, to ensure the program is responsive to consumer and community health needs, while delivering high-quality and culturally competent care. The Commission is currently made up of 23 members, 13 of whom represent THWs.

House Bill 2088 establishes a new traditional health worker type for tribal traditional health workers and adds a tribal traditional health worker to the Traditional Health Worker Commission.