

**FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2021 Regular Session  
Legislative Fiscal Office

**Measure: HB 2528 - MRB**

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed  
Versions are Considered Official*

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**Measure Description:**

Directs the Oregon Board of Dentistry to study dental therapy in the state.

**Government Unit(s) Affected:**

Oregon Board of Dentistry (OBD), Emergency Board, Oregon Judicial Department (OJD), Department of Administrative Services (DAS), Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

Costs related to the measure are indeterminate at this time - See explanatory analysis.

**Analysis:**

House Bill 2528, as modified by the proposed minority report amendment, directs the Oregon Board of Dentistry (OBD) to study dental therapy in the state of Oregon. OBD must compare individuals who practice dental therapy with individuals who practice expanded practice dental hygiene and compare the quality of care provided by individuals practicing in each field, in order to determine whether practitioners in one field provide a superior quality of care as compared to the other field. OBD must report its findings and recommendations to an interim legislative committee by January 31, 2023. The measure takes effect on passage.

The fiscal impact to OBD is indeterminate. Before conducting a study on the scope of practice for dental hygienists and dental therapists, OBD would first need to assess the estimated cost of conducting such a study. Since OBD’s budget does not include a clinical research component, OBD would likely need to hire new personnel or contract for professional services to determine the quality of care between these two groups of clinicians. Depending on the scope and length of the study, OBD may need to request additional resources from the Emergency Board or the Legislative Assembly in the 2022 legislative session.