

HB 2528 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Girod

Senate Committee On Rules

Minority Report

Action Date: 06/15/21

Action: Do pass with different amendments to the A-Eng bill. (Printed B-Eng.) Minority

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Report Signers: Sen. Fred Girod, Sen. Kim Thatcher

Prepared By: Brian Nieubuurt

Meeting Dates: 6/8, 6/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Board of Dentistry to study dental therapy and report to Legislative Assembly by January 31, 2023. Specifies that study should compare individuals who practice dental therapy with individuals who practice expanded practice dental hygiene, compare the quality of care provided by individuals practicing in each field, and determine whether the individuals who practice in one field provide a superior quality of care as compared to the other field. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Experience of Dental Pilot Project #100
- Potential scope of practice for dental therapists
- Required education and training for licensure
- Required supervision by dentist
- Dental therapist licensure in other states

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

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 who 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 MRB requires the Oregon Board of Dentistry to study dental therapy and report to the Legislative Assembly on the quality of practice in comparison to expanded practice dental hygiene.