

HB 2555 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Prepared By: Brian Nieubuurt, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires individual and group health benefit plans and benefit plans offered by Public Employees' Benefit Board and Oregon Educators Benefit Board to reimburse services provided by naturopathic physicians within scope of their practice if services are reimbursed when provided by licensed physicians. Requires reimbursement paid to naturopathic physician in independent practice to be in same amount as reimbursement paid to physician. Prohibits health benefit plans from reducing reimbursement paid to physician in order to comply with reimbursement parity requirements.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians, naturopathic doctors diagnose, prevent, and treat acute and chronic illness to restore and establish optimal health by supporting the person's inherent self-healing process. Naturopathic doctors work to identify the underlying causes of illness and develop personalized treatment plans to address them. Naturopathic medical education curricula includes the same biomedical and diagnostic sciences as medical doctors (MDs) and osteopathic doctors (DOs) while also receiving education in additional areas such as clinical nutrition, acupuncture, homeopathic medicine, botanical medicine, physical medicine, and counseling. According to Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) Health Care Workforce Reporting Program, in 2021, there just over 1,100 licensed naturopathic physicians in Oregon.

House Bill 2555 would require individual and group health benefit plans to reimburse naturopathic physicians at the same rate as physicians if the services provided by the naturopathic physician are covered by the plan when provided by a physician.