

HB 3223 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Prepared By: Maya Green, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/19, 4/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits Oregon Board of Dentistry (OBD) from requiring applicant for certification as dental assistant of any type to pass written examination. Requires OBD to adopt rules to establish alternative pathways to certification, including allowing licensed dentist to provide written attestation confirming completion of alternative pathway requirements. Specifies expanded functions that dental assistants may perform upon attestation confirming completion of alternative pathway requirements. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Ayes, 40; Nays, 15--Breese-Iverson, Cate, Cramer, Elmer, Evans, Goodwin, Hieb, Lewis, Mannix, McIntire, Morgan, Reschke, Stout, Wallan, Wright; Excused, 3--Boshart Davis, Levy B, Scharf; Excused for Business of the House, 2--Helm, Owens

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In Oregon, dental assistants are not licensed, but must be certified to take X-rays or perform other expanded functions. Current Oregon Administrative Rules allow licensed dentists to authorize certified dental assistants to place films/sensors, adjust equipment preparatory to exposing films/sensors, and expose the films and create the images under general supervision. Dental assistants who have completed a course of instruction approved by the Oregon Board of Dentistry and passed the written Dental Radiation Health and Safety Examination administered by the Dental Assisting National Board, or comparable exam, may perform the same duties under the indirect supervision of a dentist, dental therapist, dental hygienist, or dental assistant who holds an Oregon Radiologic Proficiency Certificate.

House Bill 3223 A prohibits the Oregon Board of Dentistry from requiring dental assistant certification applicants pass a written examination and requires the Board to adopt rules establishing alternative pathways to certification.