

HB 2627 A -A2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 4/24, 5/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Increases physician assistant membership on Oregon Medical Board (OMB) from one to two and requires that physician assistant members be licensed. Decreases Doctor of Medicine membership from seven to six. Sunsets emeritus board membership on January 1, 2024. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

House Vote: Ayes, 57; Nays, 0.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A2 Requires that physician assistant members, like physician members, must be in the active practice of their profession for at least five years immediately preceding their appointment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Medical Board (OMB) regulates the practice of medicine in Oregon. The OMB licenses medical doctors (MDs), doctors of osteopathic medicine (DOs), doctors of podiatric medicine (DPMs), physician assistants (PAs), and acupuncturists. According to Health Care Workforce Reporting Program of the Oregon Health Authority's (OHA), in 2021, Oregon had approximately 18,200 licensed medical doctors and 2,400 licensed physician assistants.

The OMB is comprised of 14 members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Oregon Senate. Ten members are physicians (seven MDs, two DOs, and one DPM). In 2015, Senate Bill 905 added a PA member to the OMB. In 2019, Senate Bill 61 added a third public member, bringing the public member representation in line with other health care professional boards.

House Bill 2627 A adds a physician assistant member to the Oregon Medical Board and balances the addition by reducing the number of doctor members.