

## HB 2555 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

---

**Action Date:** 03/22/23

**Action:** Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

**Vote:** 8-2-1-0

**Yeas:** 8 - Bowman, Conrad, Diehl, Javadi, Morgan, Nelson, Nosse, Tran

**Nays:** 2 - Dexter, Pham H

**Exc:** 1 - Goodwin

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Brian Nieubuurt, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/15, 3/22

---

#### 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.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Role of naturopathic physicians in providing access to primary care
- Current disparity in reimbursement rates
- Reimbursement equity in the Oregon Health Plan
- Insurer credentialing considerations
- Relationship of reimbursement parity requirement to Sustainable Health Care Cost Growth Target program and transitions to value-based payment models

#### 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 were just over 1,100 licensed naturopathic physicians in Oregon.

House Bill 2555 requires 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.