

**HB 3223 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****Carrier:** Sen. Patterson**Senate Committee On Health Care****Action Date:** 05/17/23**Action:** Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. (Printed B-Eng.)**Vote:** 3-0-1-2**Yeas:** 3 - Campos, Patterson, President Wagner**Exc:** 1 - Gorsek**Abs:** 2 - Bonham, Hayden**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Daniel Dietz, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 4/19, 4/26, 5/10, 5/17**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Allows the Oregon Board of Dentistry to require an applicant for certification to pass a written examination approved by the Board if the examination is administered by a program either accredited or approved by the American Dental Association to provide continuing education. Requires the exam to be offered, at minimum, in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Directs the Board of Dentistry to convene an advisory committee of at least seven members to study the dental assistant workforce shortage and review the requirements for dental assistant certification in other states. The committee must include a majority of members who have experience working as dental assistants. In appointing members to the committee, the Board of Dentistry will prioritize diversity of geographic representation, background, culture, and experience.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Education and training for certification and practice of dental assistants
- Community college dental assistant programs in Oregon
- Workforce issues including equity, barriers to entry, and retention of dental assistants
- Accessibility of examination for people who speak languages other than English
- Participation of dental assistants in the policymaking process for dental assistant certification

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Replaces the measure.

**BACKGROUND:**

In Oregon, dental assistants are not licensed and 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 a 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 B allows the Oregon Board of Dentistry to require, for dental assistant certification, a written examination approved by the Board and offered in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. The measure directs the Board to convene an advisory committee of at least seven members, the majority of whom have practiced as dental assistants, to advise the Board about workforce issues.