



SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMISSION

(SB 408 & HB 2886)

Why is a Scope of Practice Commission Needed?

Scope of practice issues (disagreement between clinicians about the boundaries of their education and training) are contentious and the decisions surrounding them can have serious patient safety consequences. A scope discussion should focus on the science,

education/training of the clinicians, and patient safety and those discussions can be difficult given the time constraints and fast pace of legislative sessions. Many States have found that having a separate stand-alone commission to advise them on these issues is helpful.

Today, several states have independent boards or commissions that advise them on scope of practice issues. Those states include:

NEBRASKA | TEXAS | CONNECTICUT
NEW MEXICO | ARIZONA | WEST VIRGINIA

An Oregon Scope Commission

Companion bills, HB 2886 and SB 408, propose identical Independent Scope Commissions, housed at the Oregon Health Authority, to allow for a more in-depth and unbiased review of new scope of practice proposals. The Commission, made up of representatives of affected licensees, would provide a report for the Legislature any time practitioners seek a change or expansion in their license.

The bill directs the Commission to review the scope request and consider patient safety and issues of access to care. They will then submit a report to the Legislature and Oregon Health Authority with their findings and recommendations.

The Legislature would maintain its authority to vote on scope of practice proposals.

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