

SB 772 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure creates the Indian Health Scholarship Program to be administered by the Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU).

DETAILED SUMMARY:

- Funds scholarships for members of federally recognized Indian tribes to cover the full cost of tuition for professional training programs for health care at private or public institutions of higher education.
- Requires prospective practitioners who enroll in the program to agree to practice on a federally recognized Oregon Indian reservation, wholly or partially within the borders of the state, or at a site that serves a patient population that is at least 50 percent members of a federally recognized tribe.
- Provides terms for repayment for prospective providers who do not fulfill the terms of the scholarship.
- Appropriates funds.

Fiscal impact: May have fiscal impact, no statement yet issued.

Revenue impact: May have revenue impact, no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon's total American Indian population, according to the 2020 U.S. Census, included 185,723 people as "American Indian or Alaskan Native." Oregon's American Indians live in all 36 counties and are about 4 percent of Oregon's total population ([link](#) to Oregon Blue Book). According to the Oregon Health Authority, the percentage of health professionals in Oregon who identify as American Indian/Alaskan Native decreased by 1.7 percent between 2016 and 2020 ([link](#) to 2020 report on Diversity of Oregon's Licensed Health Care Workforce).

Senate Bill 772 establishes the Indian Health Scholarship Program within the Oregon Health and Science University to fund scholarships for members of federally recognized Indian tribes to study health professions and then practice at a site that serves members of a federally recognized tribe.