

HB 2591 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

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Sub-Referral To: House Committee On Revenue

Meeting Dates: 1/30, 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure creates an income tax credit for physicians that practice anesthesiology and for certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) that do not otherwise qualify for the rural income tax credit, adds anesthesiologists to the list of provider types that are not subject to an annual income limitation for the rural provider tax credit, and allows anesthesiologists and CRNAs to participate in the Health Care Provider Incentive Program (HCPIP).

Detailed Summary

- Creates a new tax credit for physicians that practice anesthesiology and CRNAs that do not qualify for the rural provider tax credit.
- Removes the annual gross income limit for anesthesiologists from eligibility criteria for the rural provider tax credit.
- Directs the Oregon Health Authority to adopt rules to add individuals in training to become physicians that practice anesthesiology and CRNAs to the HCPIP.
- Makes tax credit available beginning in 2026.
- Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- CRNA retention and recruitment in rural Oregon
- Challenges recruiting anaesthesiologists into private practice
- The risk of anasthesiology residents choosing to relocate after training

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Replaces the measure.

- Permits OHA to adopt rules to include physicians who practice or are in training to practice anesthesiology, CRNAs or those in training to become CRNAs to the HCPIP.
- Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

Fiscal impact: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue impact: No revenue impact.

BACKGROUND:

Medical practitioners who provide care in rural parts of the state may be eligible for a tax credit based on the distance from a major population center where their practice is located. The credit is currently available to practitioners licensed as certified registered nurse anesthetists, dentists, doctors of medicine and osteopathic medicine, nurse practitioners, optometrists, physician associates, and podiatrists. Eligible practitioners must serve set percentages of Medicare and Medicaid recipients in their practice and provide a minimum of 20 hours per week of patient care, averaged over the month, per tax year in an eligible rural area.

The HCPIP was created through HB 3261 (2017) and is administered by the Oregon Health Authority and the Office of Rural Health. The HCPIP offers incentives to eligible students and providers committed to providing care to Oregon's rural communities. The HCPIP includes loan repayment and forgiveness opportunities, scholarships,

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and insurance subsidies.

House Bill 2591 creates an income tax credit for physicians that practice anesthesiology and for certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) who do not otherwise qualify for the rural income tax credit, adds anesthesiologists to the list of provider types that are not subject to an annual income limitation for the rural provider tax credit, and allows anesthesiologists and CRNAs to participate in the Health Care Provider Incentive Program.