

## **HB 3439 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care**

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**Meeting Dates:** 2/27, 3/4, 4/1

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure requires individual and group health benefit plans, as well as plans offered by the Public Employees' Benefit Board (PEBB) and Oregon Educators Benefit Board (OEBB) to reimburse services provided by naturopathic physicians within their scope of practice if the services are reimbursed when provided by licensed physicians, physician associates, or nurse practitioners. It requires the reimbursement paid to a naturopathic physician to be the same amount paid to a physician, physician associate, or nurse practitioner providing the service in the same setting and geographic area. The measure prohibits insurers from reducing reimbursement to physicians, physician associates, or nurse practitioners in order to comply with reimbursement parity requirements.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Education and training required to become a naturopathic physician.
- Previous pay parity granted to physician associates and nurse practitioners.
- Role of naturopathic physicians in primary care workforce.
- Potential impact to insurance rates, including to plans offered by the Public Employees' Benefit Board (PEBB) and Oregon Educators Benefit Board (OEBB).

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-1 Clarifies effective dates.

*FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued*

*REVENUE: No revenue impact*

#### **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 2022 there were just over 1,100 licensed naturopathic physicians in Oregon.

House Bill 3439 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.