

SB 683 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 04/08/25

Action: Do pass and refer to Ways and Means by prior reference.

Vote: 4-1-0-0

Yeas: 4 - Campos, Hayden, Linthicum, Patterson

Nays: 1 - Reynolds

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/18, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to study access to primary care physicians and report findings to the Legislative Assembly every two years. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

Detailed Summary:

Defines primary care physician (PCP). Directs OHA to count the number of PCPs in active practice in Oregon every two years. Requires OHA to only count PCPs operating in a primary care capacity, to sort the data by city and region, and to identify service gaps in rural and medically underserved areas. Directs OHA to report findings to the Legislative Assembly and to post findings on a public website. Directs OHA to submit the first report by September 15, 2026.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Definition of primary care provider.
- Rural provider networks.
- Hours spent on patient care.

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Primary care physicians (PCPs) are physicians who practice general health care. They are typically the first person with whom patients discuss their health issues. PCPs provide preventative care, treatment of common illnesses, screening for and early detection of illnesses or conditions, management of chronic conditions, and referrals to medical specialists. PCPs may include physicians who practice family medicine, general internal medicine, pediatrics, or other similar disciplines. Between 2014 and 2019, the total number of PCPs in Oregon fell 13.1 percent ([The State of Primary Care](#), 2024). Much of Oregon is designated as a primary care health professional shortage area ([HPSA](#)) or as a medically underserved area ([MUA](#)) as defined by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Oregon's Health Care Workforce Reporting Program (HWRP) collaborates with 17 health regulatory licensing boards to collect survey data from healthcare professionals each time they renew their license. In 2024, an estimated 9,584 PCPs were actively practicing in Oregon ([Oregon's Licensed Health Care Workforce Supply](#), 2024). HWRP data is available for public viewing on [Tableau](#).

Senate Bill 683 directs the Oregon Health Authority to study access to PCPs every two years and submit a report to the Legislative Assembly with the report findings.

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Background prepared by Aleya García Rivas