Oregon Health Authority Measure Summary

Oregon Health Care Workforce Information Collection

Concept: This measure requires all health care regulatory boards to participate in the Oregon Healthcare Workforce Database, created by HB 2009 in 2009. Expanded data collection will allow the Legislature, OHA, and other industry and education stakeholders to better understand Oregon’s current health care workforce and plan for future needs.

Need for Policy Change: Incomplete information about the health care professionals reduces Oregon’s ability to develop a workforce that can meet the needs of the newly insured and support health system transformation. Existing statute (ORS 676.410) requires seven health care workforce regulatory boards to participate in a coordinated data collection effort and authorizes them to collect a small fee from licensees to support data processing and analysis. The seven boards represent nursing, medicine, physical therapy, occupational therapy, pharmacy, dentistry, and dietetics. Another three boards (psychologists, social workers, and professional counselors & therapists) now participate voluntarily but the response rate is low and licensees do not contribute fees. There are eight additional health care regulatory boards, representing more than 25,000 licensed health care professionals, who do not participate at all. This legislation would broaden the data collection effort to all health care professional licensing boards, greatly improving the breadth and quality of data available about Oregon’s health care workforce.

Impact if Not Approved: In the absence of good quality data on the size and characteristics of all licensed health care providers in the state, Oregon can neither plan appropriately for future workforce needs nor monitor adequately the impact of the ACA and other policy changes on existing providers.

Facts:

- Data currently collected include provider demographics, training background, practice location and specialty, employment status, and future practice plans.
- In most cases, health care providers supply this data by completing a short, web-based questionnaire as part of their online license renewal. OHA designs and maintains the questionnaire and works with contractors to clean and analyze the data.
- To date, the data have been used for regular monitoring, for projecting future provider demand, and for assessing the diversity of Oregon’s health care workforce. A new report featuring trends over time and individual profession and county profiles will be available in early 2015.
- The proposed measure allows OHA and health care regulatory boards to jointly determine the most appropriate date timing for each board to begin participating in the data collection effort.

Other Supporters: Healthcare Workforce Committee of the Oregon Health Policy Board; Oregon Healthcare Workforce Institute.

Fiscal Impact: There would be a small fiscal impact on the new boards or their licensees. The database is currently supported by a fee of $5/licensee/biennium (or $2.50 annually).

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