

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Gallegos  
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Monnes Anderson

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Fiscal:** Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

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**Action:** Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure

**Vote:** 26 – 0 – 0

House

Yeas: Barker, Buckley, Frederick, Freeman, Hanna, Huffman, Jenson, Komp, McLane, Nathanson, Read, Richardson, Smith, Tomei, Williamson

Nays:

Exc:

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Devlin, Edwards, Girod, Hansell, Johnson, Monroe, Steiner Hayward, Thomsen, Whitsett, Winters

Nays:

Exc:

**Prepared By:** Kim To, Legislative Fiscal Office

**Meeting Date:** July 3, 2013

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Establishes Traditional Health Workers Commission within Oregon Health Authority (OHA). Requires OHA Director appoint members of commission. Replaces references to “community” workers with “traditional.” Requires director to ensure board membership represents geographic, ethnic, gender, racial, disability status, gender identity, sexual orientation and economic diversity of traditional health workers. Requires OHA adopt rules for criteria and education requirements, appropriate professional designations and processes for approval of classifications for coordinated care organizations to use with respect to traditional health workers.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Fiscal impact

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** House Bill 3650 (2011) mandated that members enrolled in Oregon’s coordinated care organizations (CCOs) have access to Traditional Health Workers to facilitate culturally and linguistically appropriate care. The bill also requires the Oregon Health Authority, in consultation with the appropriate health professional regulatory boards and advocacy groups, to develop and establish training requirements and other competency standards for community health workers, personal health navigators, peer wellness specialists, and other health care workers.

House Bill 3407 creates the Traditional Health Workers Commission and tasks it with creating rules to define criteria and education for health care workers not licensed by the state. Traditional health workers include community health workers, personal health navigators, peer wellness specialists and doulas. The purpose of the rules is to create standards for otherwise unregulated health practices which CCOs can use as they build networks to serve Oregon’s Medicaid population.