

HB 2011 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Rep. Alonso Leon**House Committee On Health Care****Action Date:** 04/09/19**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)**Vote:** 11-0-0-0**Yeas:** 11 - Alonso Leon, Boles, Drazan, Greenlick, Hayden, Keny-Guyer, Mitchell, Noble, Nosse, Prusak, Salinas**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Oliver Droppers, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 4/2, 4/9**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires continuing education in cultural competency for persons authorized to practice certain regulated professions every other time authorization is renewed. Directs relevant professional boards to adopt corresponding rules. Allows a professional board to consider the availability of continuing education when adopting rules related to the number of required continuing education credits. Directs professional boards to encourage, not require, completion of continuing education approved by the Oregon Health Authority. Exempts retired and inactive licensees. Modifies criteria for continuing education in cultural competency for public universities and community colleges that provide access to health care facilities with licensed health professionals. Becomes effective July 1, 2021.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Pending amendments
- Cultural competency as a continuing education requirement for health care professionals
- Current voluntary approach among licensing boards for cultural competency training
- Racial and ethnic health disparities; intentional and unintentional biases among health care professionals
- Culturally and linguistically appropriate care
- Licensure renewal periods and continuing education (CE) credits
- Oregon Health Authority's list of approved continuing education for cultural competence for licensed health professionals
- Number of professional boards that require licensees to participate in cultural competence continuing education

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Requires applicable professional boards to adopt rules to require a person authorized to practice the regulated profession to complete cultural competency continuing education. Specifies that continuing education requirement must be met every other time a licensee's authorization is subject to renewal. Allows a professional board to consider the availability of continuing education when adopting rules related to the number of required credits of continuing education. Directs professional boards to encourage, not require, completion of continuing education approved by OHA. Specifies that completion of continuing education to renew licensure does not apply to professionals who are retired or no longer practicing their profession in Oregon or any state. Modifies cultural competency continuing education criteria for public universities and community colleges that provide access to health care facilities with licensed health professionals. Extends effective date from January 1, 2020 to July 1, 2021.

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BACKGROUND:

The Legislative Assembly enacted HB 2611 (2013), with a January 1, 2015 operative date to start developing a new cultural competency continuing education (CCCE) program, which is currently voluntary for licensees among 22 health professional licensing boards. In 2014, the Oregon Health Authority, through a rulemaking process, defined “cultural competency” as meaning “a lifelong process of examining the values and beliefs and developing and applying an inclusive approach to health practice in a manner that recognizes the content and complexities of provider-patient communication and interaction and preserves the dignity of individuals, families, and communities.” OHA also established requirements that applicable licensing boards shall report to the agency: (1) licensee/member requirements for participation in the program, (2) number of regulated health care professionals who completed CCCE, (3) number of audited health care professionals who completed CCCE from the OHA-approved list, and (4) level of reporting each board requires of licensees/members regarding participation in CCCE.

In a 2018 report to the Legislative Assembly, OHA stated that among the 22 professional boards:

- 15 boards require licensees to report on CCCE during license renewal;
- 14 of 17 boards participating in OHA’s Health Care Workforce Survey chose to add a CCCE question to their survey;
- 16 boards require licensees to report on CCCE during audits; and,
- Two boards have no CCCE reporting requirements of licensees.

As of 2018, the percent of health care professional boards who have completed CCCE ranges from 43.9 percent (nursing) to .01 percent (emergency medical services and trauma systems).

House Bill 2011-A directs health professional licensing boards to require completion of cultural competency education as a condition of being authorized (i.e., licensed) to practice health care.