

**HB 4074 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

Carrier: Rep. Schouten

**House Committee On Health Care****Action Date:** 02/13/20**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)**Vote:** 11-0-0-0**Yeas:** 11 - Alonso Leon, Drazan, Greenlick, Hayden, Keny-Guyer, Moore-Green, Noble, Nosse, Prusak, Salinas, Schouten**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Oliver Droppers, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 2/4, 2/11, 2/13**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Defines key terms, including genetic counseling, as assisting persons in understanding and adapting the medical, psychological, and familial implications of genetic conditions, among other factors. Authorizes the Health Licensing Office (HLO) to issue a license to practice genetic counseling if an applicant: (1) is 18 years of age, (2) is certified by a national certification organization for genetic counselors, (3) pays licensure fee, and (4) meets other requirements established in rule by HLO. Prohibits an individual from practicing genetic counseling unless the individual is licensed by HLO. Allows HLO to adopt rules to create licensure, refuse to issue or renew a license, and suspend or revoke or otherwise limit an authorization to practice genetic counseling. Imposes civil penalty for violation of licensure requirements. Clarifies scope and practice for a licensed genetic counselor including counseling in a manner that is culturally and linguistically appropriate for the patient or their family. Becomes operative January 1, 2021. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Rapidly evolving professional discipline of genetic counselors; specialized education
- Other states' requirements for licensed genetic counselors
- Limiting the practice of individuals who provide nutrition counseling based on genetic makeup

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Requires licensed genetic counselor to refer a patient to a licensed physician or other appropriate licensed health care practitioner if they become aware of a medical condition or disease that is outside the scope of practice of genetic counseling. Clarifies that a licensed genetic counselor is not authorized to diagnose, test, or treat a genetic or medical condition or disease. Requires licensed genetic counselor to practice counseling in a manner that is culturally and linguistically appropriate for the patient or their family. Allows licensed genetic counselor to use standards established by a national certification organization for genetic counselors. Specifies licensed genetic counselor shall provide contact information for support programs and services related to a patient's genetic or medical condition or disease.

**BACKGROUND:**

The American Society of Human Genetics states that genetic counselors are health professionals with specialized graduate degrees and training in medical genetics, genomics, and counseling. According to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), genetic services should be provided by a genetic specialist who has specialized education. Genetic counselors often engage individuals with risk assessment, patient education, facilitation of testing, results disclosure, among other services (OHA website). As of January 2019, over 20 states have enacted licensure law for genetic counselors. Oregon Health and Science University reported approximately 60 genetic counselors were practicing in Oregon (2019).

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House Bill 4074-A establishes licensure for individuals to practice genetic counseling in Oregon.