

HB 2116 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health

Prepared By: Zoe Larmer, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists (OBLPCT) to order mental health, medical condition, or chemical dependency evaluation of applicant, licensee, or registered intern if there is reasonable cause to believe that said person is unable to practice professional counseling or marriage and family therapy with reasonable skill and client safety. Allows board to request any medical or mental health organization to assist board in preparing for or conducting evaluations. Authorizes board to take any action necessary before January 1, 2022 to enable implementation by January 1, 2022. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists (OBLPCT) is housed in the Mental Health Regulatory Agency and oversees licensed professional counselors (LPCs) and licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFTs). The board's responsibilities include adopting rules and a code of ethics; granting licenses; examining and passing on the qualifications of applicants to practice as LPCs and LMFTs; and maintaining and publishing a register of licensees. OBLPCT also investigates alleged statutory or rule violations, establishes procedures to review and investigate complaints, and reports biennially to the Legislative Assembly concerning its activities .

The board comprises eight members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate for three year terms. Three positions on the board are for professional counselors, two are for marriage and family therapists, one is for a faculty of a school that trains counselors or therapists, and two are for members of the public. Licensees are required to complete 40 hours of continuing education, including a minimum of six in professional ethics and four in cultural competency training.

House Bill 21156 authorizes the OBLPCT to order mental health, medical condition, or chemical dependency evaluation of applicant, licensee, or registered intern if there is reasonable cause to believe that said person is unable to practice professional counseling or marriage and family therapy with reasonable skill and client safety.