

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

SB 5521

Health Related Licensing Boards

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Education Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative McLain

SB 5521 is the budget bill for the Health Related Licensing Boards which consists of the Mortuary and Cemetery Board, Board of Naturopathic Medicine, Occupational Therapy Licensing Board, Board of Medical Imaging, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, and Veterinary Medical Examining Board. These six boards are combined into one agency for budgetary reporting. However, each board operates independently and has a separate expenditure limitation that is approved by the Legislature. The boards are funded solely by Other Funds revenue, largely from licensing and application fees. The recommended budget for the six boards is \$8.4 million Other Funds and 23 positions (21.90 FTE).

With the exception of the Mortuary and Cemetery Board, the recommended budget for each board is below current service level. The Mortuary and Cemetery Board's exception is due to an increase in the death filing fee to stabilize and sustain the Indigent Disposition Program Fund. The IDP Fund provides an opportunity for death care facilities to seek reimbursement from the Board for costs associated with providing services to families who are unable to afford it.

Four of the boards (Naturopathic Medicine, Occupational Therapy, Medical Imaging, and Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology) increased fees to offset increasing administrative costs. Most of these fees have not increased in about a decade.

The budget recommendation also includes a budget note directing the boards to work with the Department of Administrative Services to present a plan to remain independent or to become a part of the Oregon Health Authority's Health Licensing Office starting in the 2023-25 biennium. The boards and DAS are to jointly report their proposal to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means during the 2022 legislative session.

The Education Subcommittee recommends SB 5521 be amended by the –3 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.