

HB 2117 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Wright

House Committee On Behavioral Health

Action Date: 03/24/21

Action: Do Pass.

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Lively, Moore-Green, Morgan, Nosse, Reynolds, Salinas, Sanchez, Sollman, Wright

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Zoe Larmer, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/3, 3/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Repeals Oregon Board of Psychology (BOP) authority to issue initial psychologist associate licenses. Directs BOP to continue to regulate persons who were licensed as psychologist associates before operative date of measure.

Allows psychologist associates to perform specific functions within practice of psychology if under periodic direct supervision of psychologist licensed by board. 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.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Reciprocity with other states
- Workforce impacts
- Role of psychologist associate

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Board of Psychology (BOP) is housed in the Mental Health Regulatory Agency and oversees and licenses anyone practicing psychology in the state of Oregon. BOP's responsibilities include adopting rules and a code of ethics; establishing standards of service, training, and educational qualifications; determining the qualifications of applicants to practice psychology in Oregon; investigating alleged violations of the laws administered by the board; and imposing appropriate penalties.

The Board consists of nine members appointed by the Governor to three-year terms and confirmed by the Senate. Six board positions are for licensed psychologists and three are for members from the general public, not associated with the profession. House Bill 2117 repeals the BOP's authority to issue psychologist associate licenses.