

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 610

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2021 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Creates psychology provider incentive program within Oregon Health Authority to provide financial incentives to students enrolled in approved doctoral programs in psychology who complete courses that provide cultural competency training.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Counties, Public Universities, Oregon Board of Psychology, Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Department of Administrative Services (DAS), Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST), Special Districts, Oregon Judicial Department (OJD), Cities, Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI), Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Analysis:

SB 610 creates a psychology provider incentive program in the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). This program is to provide stipends for housing costs for students enrolled in approved doctoral programs in psychology who complete four courses that provide cultural competency training; and loan repayment subsidies for licensed psychologists in Oregon who completed this coursework while they were a student. There is no specific amount of funding provided for this program under this measure.

The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) must provide guaranteed full-time employment in a position within the department to a licensed psychologist who applies for a vacant position, completed four cultural competency training courses, and is otherwise qualified for the position. DPSST must enter into a contract with the licensed psychologist that includes a provision that stipulates that the period of employment with the department must be for at least six months and not longer than 12 months.

Public employers must grant a preference to a licensed psychologist who completed four cultural competency training courses as a student and who completes an initial application screening and meets minimum qualifications.

This measure establishes the Psychology Provider Incentive Fund in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund, with moneys continuously appropriated to OHA to carry out this measure. This measure takes effect on the 91st day after the Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

As discussed below, the measure results in anticipated costs in the Oregon Health Authority related to implementing the new program; however, other elements are currently indeterminate. This measure warrants a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for consideration of its budgetary impact.

Oregon Health Authority

To implement this measure, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) would establish a new permanent, full-time Operations and Policy Analyst 3 (0.88 FTE in 2021-23, and 1.00 FTE in 2023-25) to administer the program, including development of applications processes and monitoring of funds, and to monitor the provision of preference. The total cost of this position is estimated at \$246,944 General Fund in 2021-23 and \$278,910 General Fund in 2023-25, including position-related Services and Supplies.

Because funding levels for this program have not yet been established, the total fiscal impact for OHA is currently indeterminate. Depending on funding levels and number of students and psychologists supported by this program, additional administrative support may be required.

Department of Administrative Services

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) notes an indeterminate impact from this measure. The public employment preference requirements may require updates to the state Human Resources system, and training for recruiters. Further information is needed about how the preference will be applied for DAS to understand the full fiscal impact of this measure.

Bureau of Labor and Industries

The fiscal impact for the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) is indeterminate. BOLI may receive increased complaints due to the creation of a new unlawful employment practice under this measure. It is unknown how many additional complaints BOLI might receive due to an alleged violation by a public employer of preference requirements for licensed psychologists.

Other state agencies

There is no or minimal fiscal impact for the Oregon Board of Psychology, Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, and Oregon Judicial Department. There is a minimal fiscal impact anticipated for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, assuming that the agency is not tasked with disbursing any funds to students, which may result in some administrative costs.

There is no fiscal impact for public universities, Counties, or Cities.