

House Bill 3360

Sponsored by Representative MCLAIN

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Designates April 26 of each year as Occupational Therapy Day.
Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to Occupational Therapy Day; and declaring an emergency.

3 Whereas occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants work in a variety of prac-
4 tice settings, including schools, hospitals, outpatient clinics, home health agencies, skilled nursing
5 facilities, community mental health programs, privately owned clinics, detention centers and
6 correctional facilities; and

7 Whereas occupational therapists often work with other health care providers, including physical
8 therapists, speech-language pathologists, physicians, psychologists, social workers and nurses; and

9 Whereas "occupation" can be defined for purposes of occupational therapy as the daily activities
10 that people want and need to do in their daily lives; and

11 Whereas occupational therapists work with clients across an entire life span, from birth to old
12 age, in order to help clients to obtain, regain or retain the greatest level of independence in their
13 daily occupations, which makes occupational therapy the health care profession with the most di-
14 verse scope; and

15 Whereas in school settings, including early intervention, occupational therapists work with staff
16 to ensure that students on individualized plans receive the support necessary to access their edu-
17 cation, support students with feeding concerns by working on feeding teams, address individual
18 physiological and sensory processing needs, provide transitional support for students immediately
19 after school in developing work readiness skills and consult with districts on environmental and
20 program-specific areas of need; and

21 Whereas in acute care settings, working with other acute care providers, occupational thera-
22 pists evaluate clients' wellness and readiness to be discharged based on observation of self-care
23 safety and basic assessment of cognition, socioemotional state, mental health and physical well-
24 being; and

25 Whereas in adult outpatient settings, occupational therapists serve a critical role in a client's
26 continuation of care for long-term conditions such as strokes, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease
27 and post-concussion syndrome, provide many forms of hand therapy and work to create and expand
28 on other areas of need such as chronic pain, opioid addiction and dependence, low vision and driving
29 adaptation and rehabilitation; and

30 Whereas in pediatric outpatient settings, occupational therapists work to address a child's pri-
31 mary occupation-play-and to promote development of foundational motor skills, cognitive skills, so-

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 cial interactions, body awareness, attention and self-care through play and to provide family support
2 through education, training and teleservices; and

3 Whereas in home health settings such as apartments, privately owned homes, assisted living
4 homes or memory care facilities, occupational therapists support their clients in areas of personal
5 need and self-care, provide fitting and training on the use of rehabilitation equipment, provide edu-
6 cation on safety during transfers between activities, work to reduce fall risk and help clients to
7 retain as much independence as possible in their daily occupations; and

8 Whereas in skilled nursing facilities, occupational therapists provide unique treatment ap-
9 proaches, education and training to guide clients to regain or learn compensatory techniques in
10 occupations of self-care, mobility, cognition, safety, chronic condition management, executive func-
11 tion, social engagement and any occupations adversely affected by health concerns; and

12 Whereas in mental health settings, occupational therapists bring function into the therapy
13 milieu by generalizing their knowledge and education into skills that the client can use in daily life
14 in order to find recovery and to reduce the burden of disease on themselves, those around them and
15 the health care system, and occupational therapists get clients actually doing the steps of their
16 action plans by practicing the activities in the community as part of their rehabilitation; and

17 Whereas Oregon’s dedicated occupational therapy professionals deserve to be recognized for
18 their vital and necessary work and for the direct influence they have in our communities; now,
19 therefore,

20 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

21 **SECTION 1.** April 26 of each year is designated as Occupational Therapy Day.

22 **SECTION 2.** This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
23 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect
24 on its passage.

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