

## HB 4071 -2, -3, -7 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

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**Meeting Dates:** 2/14, 2/19

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires health professional regulatory board to issue license applicant temporary authorization to practice within 10 days of receiving application in specified circumstances. Terminates temporary authorization at one year or on date on which applicant receives license. Becomes operative January 1, 2025. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current workforce needs
- Benefit of compacts for allowing workforce to practice in areas of need
- Implementation considerations of joining licensure compacts
- Recent improvements in Oregon licensing boards processing and customer service times

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Enacts Social Work Licensure Compact. Specifies purpose, definitions, and duties of participation in compact. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

-3 Enacts Counselor Compact. Specifies purpose, definitions, and duties of participation in compact. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

-7 **Replaces the measure.** Establishes 20-member Task Force on Health Professional Licensing. Specifies membership and duties. Requires task force to meet monthly from April 2024 through December 2025. Requires task force to submit reports by September 15, 2024; September 15, 2025; and December 15, 2025. Requires Legislative Policy and Research Office (LPRO) Director to provide staff support to task force. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

#### BACKGROUND:

Established with the creation of the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Oregon Health Policy Board (OHPB), Oregon's Health Care Workforce Reporting Program collaborates with health professional licensing boards to collect health care workforce data via boards' license renewal processes. While initially requiring reporting from nine health professional licensing boards, the Program now collects data from 17 boards. In its 2023 Workforce Supply report, the Program noted an increase in health care demands in the state due to factors like an aging population and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Health Care Workforce Committee reports directly to OHPB and coordinates efforts to recruit and educate health care professionals. House Bill 3261 (2017) requires OHPB to produce a biennial assessment in odd-numbered years of Oregon's health care workforce needs. In its 2023 Needs Assessment, OHPB issued seven recommendations for improving Oregon's health care workforce:

- Improve the diversity of providers
- Improve the supply and distribution of health care workers
- Enhance the resiliency and well-being of the workforce
- Expand training, education, and other career pathways
- Expand the use of delivery models that improve access and worker retention
- Increase the use of community-based providers

- Improve data collection

PRELIMINARY