

B-Engrossed House Bill 4151

Ordered by the House March 1
Including House Amendments dated February 14 and March 1

Sponsored by Representatives SANCHEZ, REYNOLDS; Representatives ANDERSEN, BOWMAN, BYNUM, CONRAD, DEXTER, EVANS, GAMBA, GRAYBER, HARTMAN, HELM, JAVADI, LIVELY, NELSON, NGUYEN D, NOSSE, PHAM H, PHAM K, RUIZ, WALTERS, Senators CAMPOS, DEMBROW, FREDERICK, GOLDEN, GORSEK, JAMA, MANNING JR, PATTERSON, WOODS (at the request of Ballmer Institute, University of Oregon) (Pre-session filed.)

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. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act makes a small group to look at the youth behavioral workforce. (Flesch Readability Score: 77.8).

Directs the System of Care Advisory Council to establish a subcommittee on the youth behavioral health workforce. Requires the subcommittee to submit an initial report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to behavioral health not later than September 15, 2024, and a final report to the Legislative Assembly not later than December 15, 2025.

Sunset December 31, 2025.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to youth behavioral health; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The System of Care Advisory Council shall convene a subcommittee on**
5 **the youth behavioral health workforce.**

6 **(2) The subcommittee consists of:**

7 **(a) Members of the council, or designees of members of the council, who:**

8 **(A) Are potential employers of graduates of youth-serving training programs for youth-**
9 **serving behavioral health professions for which there is no state-issued professional author-**
10 **ization, including employers in coordinated care organizations, substance use disorder**
11 **treatment centers, behavioral health care organizations, community-based organizations and**
12 **schools;**

13 **(B) Represent training programs for youth-serving behavioral health professions, includ-**
14 **ing high school career and technical education programs, associate degree training pro-**
15 **grams, bachelor's degree training programs and skills training programs; and**

16 **(C) Represent culturally specific organizations that serve underserved communities;**

17 **(b) Representatives of health professional regulatory agencies that regulate behavioral**
18 **and mental health care professions, including but not limited to the Oregon Board of Li-**
19 **icensed Professional Counselors and Therapists, the Oregon Board of Psychology and the**
20 **State Board of Licensed Social Workers; and**

21 **(c) The Early Learning System Director, or designee of the director.**

22 **(3) If no members of the council meet a description provided in subsection (2)(a) of this**

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 section, the council shall appoint a community member who meets the description.

2 (4) The subcommittee shall identify state-issued professional authorization options for
3 existing and emerging behavioral health professions and for determining the structures and
4 supports needed to sustain the youth behavioral health workforce. The subcommittee shall
5 focus on behavioral health professions that have the potential to increase both equitable ac-
6 cess to behavioral health supports and the diversity of the existing behavioral health
7 workforce to be more reflective of the youth population of this state. Additionally, the sub-
8 committee shall:

9 (a) Identify existing and emerging behavioral health professions that serve the youth
10 population of this state and for which there are no state-issued professional authorizations,
11 including information about the defining characteristics of each profession and the ability
12 of each profession to increase access to and diversity of the behavioral health workforce;

13 (b) Provide recommendations regarding how to better align the behavioral health pro-
14 fessions described in paragraph (a) of this subsection with existing health professional regu-
15 latory agencies;

16 (c) Develop recommendations to establish state-issued professional authorizations to
17 support expanding the behavioral health workforce that serves the youth population of this
18 state; and

19 (d) Identify strategies for creating pathways into the behavioral health professions that
20 serve the youth population of this state for individuals who are underrepresented in the
21 current behavioral health workforce.

22 (5) The subcommittee shall submit, in the manner provided by ORS 192.245:

23 (a) An initial report, which may include recommendations for legislation, to the interim
24 committees of the Legislative Assembly related to behavioral health not later than Septem-
25 ber 15, 2024; and

26 (b) A final report, which may include recommendations for legislation, to the Legislative
27 Assembly not later than December 15, 2025.

28 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this 2024 Act is repealed on December 31, 2025.

29 **SECTION 3.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the General Fund appropriation
30 made to the Oregon Health Authority by section 1 (1), chapter 591, Oregon Laws 2023, for the
31 biennium ending June 30, 2025, for the Health Systems Division - Administration, is increased
32 by \$196,253 for the System of Care Advisory Council subcommittee on the youth behavioral
33 workforce.

34 **SECTION 4.** This 2024 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
35 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2024 Act takes effect
36 on its passage.

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