



Legislative Fiscal Office  
83<sup>rd</sup> Oregon Legislative Assembly  
2025 Regular Session

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Date: April 14, 2025

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**Bill Title:** Relating to mental health treatment providers.

**Government Unit(s) Affected:** Board of Licensed Social Workers, Department of Consumer and Business Services, Judicial Department, Oregon Health Authority, Department of Justice, Counties, Cities

### Summary of Fiscal Impact

Costs related to the measure are indeterminate at this time - see explanatory analysis.

### Measure Description

The measure enacts the Social Work Licensure Compact in Oregon. The compact permits member states to determine applicant eligibility and approve or deny multistate licenses that allow a licensed social worker to practice in any compact state. An applicant for a multistate license in Oregon must pay applicable fees, including any state fees. A compact member state may take adverse action against a regulated social worker's multistate authorization to practice only within that member state; however, the home state may take adverse action against a regulated social worker's multistate license. The measure establishes the Social Worker Licensure Compact Commission, which will oversee and administer the compact among member states. The Commission may assess and collect fees from member states to cover its operating costs.

The measure authorizes the State Board of Licensed Social Workers Account, which is continuously appropriated to the Board of Licensed Social Workers (BLSW), to be used to meet the state's financial obligations under the compact.

The measure modifies the definition of "provider" to include outpatient facilities with a certified substance use disorder program that employs certified alcohol and drug counselors for purposes of commercial insurance coverage of mental health services.

### Fiscal Analysis

The fiscal impact to BLSW is indeterminate. While the Social Work Licensure Compact has been enacted in seven states, according to the Council of State Governments, in partnership with the United States Department of Defense and the Association of Social Work Boards, multistate licenses will be issued following a 12-to-24-month implementation period. Under the compact, BLSW will be responsible for licensing and regulating social workers from other compact states who apply for a multistate authorization in Oregon. It is currently unknown how many prospective social workers will apply for a multistate authorization to practice in Oregon. BLSW currently licenses over 9,300 social workers. Under the measure, BLSW projects receiving 20-25 requests for multistate authorizations per month. Given this potential increase in workload, BLSW may need to hire an additional Office Specialist 2 position to process applications and may have additional licensing and legal costs related to compliance activities. The measure also requires BLSW to pay the compact commission annual assessments and fees to support the commission's operating costs; however, these costs are not defined in the compact. It is currently unknown how much BLSW would need to pay the Commission in annual assessments and fees.

Assuming these additional costs, BLSW may need to increase fees to cover its operating costs and may need additional Other Funds expenditure limitation.

The measure is anticipated to have a minimal fiscal impact on the Oregon Health Authority, Department of Justice, and Oregon Judicial Department.

The measure is not anticipated to have a fiscal impact on the Department of Consumer and Business Services, cities, or counties.

**Relevant Dates**

The measure takes effect on January 1, 2026.

The compact will take effect when seven states have ratified it. Currently, 25 states have adopted legislation to enter the compact. Therefore, the compact will take effect on the measure's effective date. However, the Compact Commission likely will not be fully operational until late 2026.