

## HB 4083 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

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**Prepared By:** Maurie Harbick, LPRO Fellow

**Meeting Dates:** 2/17, 2/19

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to determine a uniform process for credentialing behavioral health providers, including selecting an existing electronic credentialing system, and authorizes flexible supervision requirements for individuals seeking specified behavioral health licensures. The measure takes effect on the 91<sup>st</sup> day following adjournment sine die.

#### Detailed Summary:

##### **Credentialing**

- Requires OHA to select an existing credentialing system for use by behavioral health providers and coordinated care organizations (CCOs).
- Prohibits CCOs from requiring an organizational provider to comply with credentialing procedures other than the uniform process established by OHA.
- Requires OHA to select a system and complete rulemaking by June 30, 2027.
- Requires CCOs to begin using the centralized credentialing system by July 1, 2027.
- Requires OHA to take specified steps to minimize unnecessary administrative burden for behavioral health providers serving medical assistance recipients.
- Requires OHA to report biennially to the governor and the legislature on its efforts.

##### **Supervision**

- Requires the Oregon Board of Licensed Social Workers to adopt rules to allow specified behavioral health provider types other than those licensed by the board to provide supervision to individuals seeking authorization to practice.
- Requires the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists to adopt rules to allow specified behavioral health provider types other than those licensed by the board to provide supervision to individuals seeking authorization to practice.
- Becomes operative on January 1, 2027.

*Fiscal impact: Fiscal impact issued*

*Revenue impact: No revenue impact*

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

A [2025 study](#) coordinated by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) found that approximately 89 percent of Oregon counties fall short of having at least one mental health provider per 1,000 residents. At the same time, organizations such as Mental Health America rank Oregon at, or near, the bottom of states with regard to mental health and substance use prevalence. In 2025, Oregon Governor Tina Kotek established the 22-member [Behavioral Health Talent Council](#) to expand upon the recommendations in the HECC study, focusing on four overarching goals: addressing the worker shortage identified by the study, preventing the loss of workers at high risk of turnover, increasing the diversity and cultural competency of the state's behavioral health

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workforce, and improving the recruitment and retention of providers to serve Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members. House Bill 4083 A implements recommendations from the Behavioral Health Talent Council related to reducing the administrative burden for behavioral health providers.