

**HB 4083 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Rep. Pham H

**House Committee On Behavioral Health**

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**Action Date:** 02/05/26

**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 5-0-3-0

**Yea:** 5 - Edwards, Javadi, Nosse, Pham H, Valderrama

**Exc:** 3 - Harbick, Isadore, Mannix

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Brian Niebuurt, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/3, 2/5

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure takes specified actions to reduce administrative burden, including expanding flexibility in credentialing and supervision, for specified behavioral health providers. It takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

Detailed Summary:

Requires the Oregon Health Authority (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, and CCOs to begin using the system by July 1, 2027. Requires OHA to take specified steps to minimize unnecessary administrative burden for behavioral health providers serving medical assistance recipients, and requires OHA to report biennially to the governor and the legislature on its efforts. Requires the Oregon Board of Licensed Social Workers and 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 boards to provide supervision to individuals seeking authorization to practice.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Governor's Behavioral Health Talent Council
- Rulemaking process to establish the specifics of cross-license supervision
- Current credentialing timelines
- Potential to help streamline background check requirements associated with the credentialing process
- Concerns of cross-license supervision of social workers

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

The amendment modifies OHA's obligation; instead of establishing a centralized credentialing portal, it must select an existing electronic credentialing system. It specifies that CCOs must begin using the electronic credentialing system by July 1, 2027. It narrows permitted cross-license supervision and removes provisions placing the Board of Licensed Social Workers under the administrative and regulatory umbrella of the Mental Health Regulatory Agency.

**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

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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 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.