

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	6 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Cowan, Gelser, Kotek, Maurer, Olson, Tomei
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Gilliam
Prepared By:	Andy Smith, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/26, 4/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires health benefit plans to provide coverage for services rendered by licensed professional counselors (LPC's) or licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFT's) acting within their scope of practice if the plan covers services by other professionals providing same or similar services. Increases civil penalty for violation of LPC and LMFT licensing requirements. Directs state licensing board to employ one or more persons to aid in investigating and enforcing licensing requirements. Prohibits use of terms "licensed professional counselor" and "licensed marriage and family therapist" for marketing and advertising unless individual is properly licensed by state. Makes measure explicitly subject to provisions of mental health parity statute (ORS 743.556).

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current insurance coverage practices in Oregon for LPC's and LMFT's
- Relationship to mental health parity bill (Senate Bill 1, 2005)
- Mental health services provided by LPC's and LMFT's
- Clarification that measure is not an "any willing provider" mandate

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Increases civil penalty for violation of LPC and LMFT licensing requirements. Directs state licensing board to employ one or more persons to aid in investigating and enforcing licensing requirements. Prohibits use of terms "licensed professional counselor" and "licensed marriage and family therapist" for marketing and advertising unless individual is properly licensed by state. Makes measure explicitly subject to provisions of mental health parity statute.

BACKGROUND: There are approximately 1,800 licensed professional counselors and licensed marriage and family therapists in Oregon. LPC's assist individuals, couples or groups through a counseling relationship and must complete at least a two-year masters degree in counseling, psychology or a related field, gain three years of full-time supervised experience and pass a comprehensive national board examination. LMFT's identify and treat affective and behavioral conditions as symptoms of marriage and family relationship dysfunction and must complete at least a two-year master's degree and two years of supervised post-degree experience. LMFT's must pass a marriage and family therapist examination.

House Bill 2687A would be subject to the provisions of the mental health parity statute (ORS 743.556), which was passed in the 2005 Legislative Session (Senate Bill 1).

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.