

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Without Recommendation as to Passage and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
<b>Vote:</b>	5 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	George G., Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Verger, Morrisette
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Ilana Weinbaum, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	5/9, 5/14

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires health benefit plans to provide coverage for services rendered by licensed professional counselors (LPC) or licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFT) acting within their scope of practice if the plan covers services by other professionals providing same or similar services. Includes services and programs provided by LPCs and LMFTs in definition of “outpatient services.” Increases civil penalty for violation of LPC and LMFT licensing requirements from \$1,000 to \$2,500 per violation. 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:**

- Measure is an extension of the mental health parity bill (SB 1, 2005)
- Services provided by licensed professional counselors (LPC) and licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFT)
- Measure would put LPCs and LMFTs on par with clinical social workers
- Comparison of rates charged by psychologists, psychiatrists and professional counselors and therapists

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** There are approximately 1,800 licensed professional counselors and licensed marriage and family therapists in Oregon. LPCs 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. LMFTs 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. LMFTs must pass a marriage and family therapist examination. ORS 675.705-835 regulates licensure for LPCs and LMFTs.

LPCs and LMFTs are not currently included in Oregon’s mandated provider pool. 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 (SB 1).