

**REVENUE:** May have revenue impact, statement not yet issued

**FISCAL:** May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference
<b>Vote:</b>	8 - 1 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Bruun, Cannon, Flores, Gelsner, Kotek, Maurer, Richardson, Greenlick
<b>Nays:</b>	Bonamici
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	3/20 (Policy sub), 3/22 (Policy sub), 4/19 (Policy sub), 4/24 (Policy sub), 4/27 (Full)

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Establishes a prescribing psychologist formulary from which a qualified psychologist may prescribe medication. Establishes that a prescribing psychologist must hold an Oregon license for a minimum of two years of post-licensure clinical experience in an inpatient or outpatient health care setting that provides some physical health services. Outlines the minimum educational qualifications and clinical experience for a prescribing psychologist. Requires Board of Psychologist Examiners to develop policies regarding clinical experience and competencies. Requires board to establish a subcommittee to oversee certification of prescribing psychologists, review curriculum, develop the formulary, develop disciplinary process and set continuing educational requirements. Outlines the composition of the subcommittee including membership of physicians, pharmacists, psychologists and physician with experience in treating children with mental or emotional disorders. Requires board to report to Legislative Assembly. Requires board to develop process to deem when a psychologist is "impaired." Sets operative date of July 1, 2008.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Lack of health care professionals in rural Oregon
- The need for regional collaboration to address health care delivery system
- Current doctoral training for psychologists
- Complexities associated with treating mental disorders
- Review of psychiatrists' training
- Concerns associated with quality of care and outcomes
- Other medical professionals that have prescriptive authority
- Impact on psychologists in rural communities
- Fiscal impact
- Concerns relating to expanding prescriptive authority

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Replaces original measure.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, New Mexico allows psychologists to prescribe drugs by: completing at least 450 hours of coursework in several areas of psychology and pharmacology, completing a 400 hours and treating 100 patients under a physician's supervision, and passing a national certification examination. When psychologists successfully pass the exam, they are issued a limited license, allowing them to prescribe drugs for two years under a doctor's supervision, after which they can apply for an independent license. Louisiana passed a similar law that allows "medical psychologists", clinical psychologists who have earned an additional master's degree in clinical psychopharmacology and meet other requirements, to prescribe drugs. In Oregon, licensed psychologists must have completed doctoral level programs in psychology with a thesis, from either programs accredited by the American Psychological Association or regionally accredited educational institutions. Prior to licensure, they must also complete a minimum of two years of supervised work experience with a licensed psychologist, pass a national written examination, and pass an oral examination. Psychologists must also complete 50 hours of continuing education every two years to maintain their license. Psychologists in Oregon cannot currently prescribe drugs.

5/2/2007 9:01:00 AM

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