MEASURE NUMBER:HB 2687STATUS: A-EngrossedSUBJECT:Health coverage for and regulation of counseling and therapy servicesGOVERNMENT UNIT AFFECTED:Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists andDepartment of Consumer and Business ServicesPREPARED BY:Dawn FarrREVIEWED BY:Robin LaMonte and Deborah MantheDATE:April 23, 2007

EXPENDITURES:	<u>2007-2009</u>	<u>2009-2011</u>
Personal Services	\$ 75,015	\$ 107,409
Services and Supplies – Contract Services	\$ (21,000)	\$ Unknown
Total Other Fund Expenditures	\$ 54,015	\$ 107,409
POSITIONS / FTE: Investigator 2	1/.75	1/1

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2008.

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET: This bill is not anticipated by the Governor's recommended budget.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANDATE: This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

COMMENTS: The bill requires health benefit plans to provide coverage for services rendered by licensed professional counselors or licensed marriage and family therapists acting within their scope of practice if the plan covers services by other professionals providing same or similar services; increases amount of civil penalties that may be imposed by the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists; directs the board to employ one or more persons to investigate and to aide in the enforcement of ORS 675.715 to 675.835 and rules adopted by the board; and, prohibits use of certain titles by persons not licensed by the board.

The Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapy's budget for the 2007-09 biennium includes \$28,000 for contract investigation services, captured within Services and Supplies. The fiscal impact assumes the addition of one full-time Investigator 2 position. Biennial Personal Services costs for an Investigator 2 position are \$107,409. There is expected to be position related Services and Supplies; however, this information is not available at this time. Total expenditures are lower for the 2007-09 biennium as the bill takes effect in January 2008, and total expenditures are reduced by moneys already budgeted to cover investigation services. ORS 675.805 continuously appropriates moneys received by the board under 675.715 to 675.835 to cover the costs of administration and enforcement activities. The board will likely have to increase fees to fund costs associated with the bill.

ORS 675.825 (4) allows the board to retain civil penalty revenues collected. The potential revenue impacts associated with increasing the cap on civil penalties from \$1,000 to \$2,500 is indeterminate.

The bill will require the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), Insurance Division to revise its posted product standards and mandated benefits list. DCBS indicates that this additional workload is expected to be minimal and can be absorbed with existing resources.

The Department of Administrative Services and the Department of Human Services indicate that there to be no direct fiscal impact resulting from this bill.

The Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapy will need additional position authority to employ "one or more persons;" hence, the Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that this bill ultimately be referred to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.