

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

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| Action: | Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed |
| Vote: | 3 - 2 - 0 |
| Yeas: | Avakian, Brown, Devlin |
| Nays: | Atkinson, Ferrioli |
| Exc.: | 0 |
| Prepared By: | Marjorie Taylor, Administrator |
| Meeting Dates: | 2/21 |

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires health benefit plan 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 plan covers services provided by certain other professionals. Adds services offered by professional counselors or marriage and family therapists to definition of “outpatient service” for purposes of statutes governing certain treatment programs and facilities. Increases maximum amount of civil penalty for violation of LPC and LMFT licensing requirements from \$1,000 to \$2,500 per violation. Prohibits use of certain professional titles by persons not licensed by board.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- People who can use the title of licensed professional counselor or licensed marriage and family therapist
- Scope of practice issues

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Restores current language that prohibits the use of the title licensed professional counselors (LPC) or licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFT) if they are not licensed. Deletes list of exceptions of certain licensed professionals authorized to use professional titles.

BACKGROUND: There are approximately 2,000 licensed professional counselors (LPC) and licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFT) 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 to 835 regulates licensure for LPCs and LMFTs. LPCs and LMFTs are not currently included in Oregon’s mandated provider pool.

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