

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: No fiscal impact**

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
<b>Vote:</b>	10 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Bruun, Cannon, Dembrow, Garrett, Harker, Kennemer, Kotek, Maurer, Thompson, Greenlick
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	3/2, 3/27

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Broadens and specifies category of health care professionals who may use the title “doctor” under certain requirements.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Department of Justice opinion
- Legislative Counsel opinion
- Different requirements from state to state
- Consequences of using title inappropriately
- Current confusion
- Proposed amendments

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Specifies criteria for the use of “doctor” in title when the licensee is licensed by the appropriate health professional regulatory board.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, Oregon law allows certain professionals who have earned doctoral degrees for the fields in which they practice to call themselves "doctor" when advertising or referring to their practice (ORS 676.110). This statute conflicts with ORS 677.060 and 677.085, which limits the use of the title "doctor" to the following: dentists, pharmacists, optometrists, psychologists, clinical social workers, chiropractors, naturopaths, and cosmetic therapists.

This statutory conflict has impacted professionals who have earned doctoral degrees in their field but do not practice in a profession explicitly mentioned by either statute. Examples of this include physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathology/audiologists, and veterinarians.

HB 2610-A removes the ambiguous examples in Chapters 676 and 677 by prohibiting all health professionals from using "doctor" unless they have: 1) earned a doctoral degree in the field of practice and 2) procured and maintained a license from the board that regulates the profession in which the degree was earned and broadens the use of the term to professions that have adopted the doctoral degree as the standard of practice.