

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	7 - 3 - 0
Yeas:	Dembrow, Harker, Kenemer, Kotek, Maurer, Thompson, Greenlick
Nays:	Bruun, Cannon, Garrett
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Roxie Cuellar, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/15, 4/20, 4/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Permits Board of Psychology to authorize certain licensed psychologists to issue prescriptions. Authorizes Board to establish rules to adopt standards and to limit drugs that can be prescribed. Establishes that Board has sole disciplinary authority over prescribing psychologists. Imposes requirements on prescribing psychologists who prescribe psychotropic medications. Establishes Committee on Prescribing Psychologists under jurisdiction of Board. Declares an emergency; effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Training for psychiatrists versus psychologists
- Dismissal of concerns of medical professionals
- Patient safety issues
- Need for prescribers, especially in rural areas

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Allows State Board of Psychologist Examiners to accept gifts, grants, or contributions from public or private sources to carry out the sections 3 to 5 and 7 of the bill. Allows Board to take necessary actions prior to the operative date of the bill in order to exercise the functions and powers of sections 3, 4 and 7. Changes the accreditation from the Oregon Medical Board to a national accrediting board. Identifies the required degree as a post-doctoral master's degree in clinical psychopharmacology.

BACKGROUND: In the early 1990s, the United States military did pilot projects in which psychologists were trained in the dispensation of prescriptions. The field of psychopharmacology arose from those projects. In Oregon, it is a two-year master's degree program. Most prescriptions are written by primary care physicians. Currently, psychiatrists, because they are physicians, can prescribe medications; psychologists cannot because they do not have the required medical background. New Mexico and Louisiana have enacted similar bills to allow psychologists to prescribe medications.