

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass with Amendments to the B-Eng. Measure to Resolve Conflicts (Printed C-Eng.)
Vote:	4 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Boquist, Ferrioli, Metsger, Devlin
Nays:	-
Exc.:	Burdick
Prepared By:	Erin Seiler, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	6/9, 6/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Modifies provisions relating to administration and regulation of boards, councils, and programs for which Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA) is responsible. Increases term of office of certain board and council members from three to four years. Eliminates need for audiologist to hold separate license to dispense hearing aids. Increases number of members of State Board of Direct Entry Midwifery (BDEM) from seven to eight by adding public member.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure
- Aligns statutes relating to administration and regulation of boards, councils, and programs within the OHLA
- Addition of a public member to the State Board of Direct Entry Midwifery
- Removal of audiologists from the OHLA

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Resolves conflicts with House Bill 2058 (2009).

BACKGROUND: OHLA's primary purpose is to provide unified and standardized regulatory oversight for eleven health and related professions (e.g., athletic trainers, body piercing, cosmetology, direct entry midwifery, etc.). Each of these professions has a volunteer citizen board and/or council that provide profession-specific expertise and consultation but are not responsible for OHLA's central agency operations.

Generally, audiologists have a minimum of a master's degree in hearing sciences. Audiologists are educated in hearing, hearing aids, the balance system and some neurological testing. While hearing aide (instrument) specialists obtain education on hearing loss and hearing instruments through a national board. Hearing aide (instrument) specialists test hearing and fit hearing aids. Both audiologists and hearing aide specialists have to pass a state examination to be licensed to fit hearing instruments. Currently, in Oregon, audiologists are licensed by the Oregon Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (BSPA). Additionally, they must also hold a separate license to dispense hearing aids. Under House Bill 3232-C, the dispensing of hearing aids will fall under the authority of the BSPA. Furthermore House Bill 3232-C increases the BDEM board membership from a seven-member board to an eight-member board; adding a public member.