

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 9 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Bruun, Cannon, Dembrow, Garrett, Harker, Kennemer, Maurer, Thompson, Greenlick

Nays: 0

Exc.: Kotek

Prepared By: Roxie Cuellar, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/11, 5/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Increases the number of members to the Board of Psychologist Examiners from seven to nine members. Increases from five to six the number of members who must be residents of Oregon and allows a member to have a Master's Degree in lieu of a Ph.D. with an emphasis in psychology. Increases from two to three the number of public board members.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for membership expansion
- Recruiting board member difficulties
- The need to allow psychologist associate to be represented on the board

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Currently, the Oregon Board of Psychologist Examiners (OBPE) has seven members (five Ph.D. psychologist members and two public members). The mission of the OBPE is to protect consumers of psychological services against the unethical, unprofessional and unlicensed practice of psychology in Oregon.

Senate Bill 173 expands the membership of the Board of Psychologist Examiners to address issues relating to vacant positions and/or absences at board meetings and potential conflicts when board members must recuse themselves from the discussion or decision-making process due to a potential conflict of interest. The recused or excused member may be the expert on the subject matter under review.

Currently, only doctoral psychologists are eligible to sit on the Board. The measure modifies this requirement, allowing a potential member to have a Master's Degree, would allow psychologist associates to sit on the Board.