

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Telfer, Verger, Morrisette
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Jennifer Kellar, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 1/28

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:

- Cost savings to board by reducing the need for "outside" expert opinions
- Board would have representation of all license categories under their authority

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Senate Bill 173 expands the membership of the Board of Psychologist Examiners to address problems related to vacant positions and/or absences at board meetings and potential conflicts when a board member knows or has worked with the licensee who is under investigation and 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.

The timeframe and division of labor for investigations and deciding disciplinary cases and completing subcommittee work were factors in the proposed statutory revisions.

Currently, only Ph.D. psychologists are eligible to sit on the Board. Modification to this requirement, allowing a potential member to have a Master's Degree, would allow Psychologist Associates to sit on the Board.