

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Kotek
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Monnes-Anderson

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure

Vote: 18 – 5 – 1

House

Yeas: Barker, Buckley, Cowan, Edwards, Garrard, Gilman, Jenson, Komp, Kotek, Nathanson, Richardson

Nays:

Exc: G. Smith

Senate

Yeas: Courtney, Edwards, Girod, Kruse, Monroe, Nelson, Shields

Nays: Bates, Johnson, Verger, Whitsett, Winters

Exc:

Prepared By: Tim Walker, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: February 18, 2010

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: This bill would allow licensed psychologists, who meet certain requirements, to prescribe certain medications. A Committee on Prescribing Psychologists, within the Oregon Medical Board, will develop a formulary of approved drugs. In addition, the Committee will be responsible for making recommendations on training programs, qualifications, address complaints and report on the program. The bill also allows psychologists who are denied prescribing authority to utilize the contested case hearing process. In addition, the bill establishes a Task Force on Prescribing Psychologists responsible for developing recommendations on educational requirements, curriculum, clinical training and standards. The Task Force's responsibilities will end on June 30, 2012.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Over site of prescribing psychologists
- Need for psychologists in rural areas

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: In 2009, HB 2702-B established a work group responsible for development of recommendations for legislation that would allow clinical psychologists prescriptive authority. SB 1046 is the product of this work group.

To become licensed, psychologists must have a doctoral degree in psychology, which generally requires from five to seven years of graduate coursework in the social and behavioral sciences. Psychologists must also complete a one-year internship and pass a state licensure exam. Patients with mental illness often require psychotropic medications as part of their treatment; such drugs are typically prescribed by a licensed physician. Psychologists cannot prescribe medications to their patients. Proposals have been made in 17 states to authorize specially trained psychologists to prescribe psychotropic medications. To date, two states, New Mexico and Louisiana, have passed such legislation.

The U.S. Department of Defense Psychopharmacology Demonstration Project was a pilot demonstration project mandated and funded by Congress in 1991 to train military clinical psychologists in the safe and effective prescription of psychotropic medication under certain circumstances to eligible beneficiaries of the military health system.