

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bates, Kruse, Morrisette, Morse, Monnes Anderson
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Rick Berkobien, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/4, 2/9, 2/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Adds preamble language regarding prescribing psychologists (“psychologists”). Defines terms. Establishes Committee on Prescribing Psychologists (“Committee”) within Oregon Medical Board (OMB), and outlines membership and operation of the Committee. Allows OMB to issue certificate for psychologists. Requires psychologist to have at least a doctorate from an approved educational program or to have completed the Department of Defense Psychopharmacology Demonstration Project or similar program operated by any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States. Requires that psychologist must have completed a clinical training program approved by OMB, pass a national certification examination as specified by OMB, and pay fees. Establishes that certificate expires every two years. Establishes that OMB adopt rules, after taking into account recommendations of Committee and State Board of Psychologist Examiners (“Board”), to set educational requirements, clinical training, standards, examinations, continuing education and prescribing psychologist formulary that is reviewed annually. Sets timelines for review and process of application approval or denial including situations in which a recommendation is contested. Establishes that OMB may deny, suspend, limit or revoke a certificate. Requires OMB, with concurrence of Board, to adopt rules requiring a psychologist maintain an ongoing collaboration with the health care professional who oversees patient’s medical care; that the collaboration be recorded; and, that the health care professional not be liable for injuries to a patient from psychologist’s care. Allows OMB to impose disciplinary action against psychologist who misuses prescriptive authority. Creates Task Force on Prescribing Psychologists. Establishes composition and operations. Charges task force with developing recommendations on educational requirements, curriculum, clinical training and standards for psychologists. Requires task force to report to Seventy Sixth Legislative Assembly. Operationalizes sections of the measure on July 1, 2011. Declares an emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Work group process and outcomes
- Intent of original bill that established work group
- Educational and clinical requirements of child psychiatrists and other physicians
- Over prescribing of psychotropic medications and their side effects
- Liability issues
- Supervision of prescribing psychologists
- Perspectives of different psychologists on prescriptive authority for profession
- Education and training that clinical psychologists undergo
- How training for physician assistants compares to that of clinical psychologists

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the original bill.

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.