

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**Measure: SB 423**

Seventy-Sixth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2011 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

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Measure Description:

Authorizes Department of Corrections and Oregon Youth Authority to certify employees for purposes of providing mental health services to inmates and persons in custody of authority.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Corrections, Oregon Youth Authority (OYA)

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis: SB 177 (2009) prohibits an individual from providing clinical social work services, including mental health services, without certification by the Board of Licensed Social Workers. This bill would allow the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) to certify individuals to provide mental health services to persons under the control of DOC and OYA.

If the bill does not pass, DOC and OYA would have to layoff Mental Health Specialists who are not currently certified. DOC would need to lay off 35 Mental Health Specialists and OYA would need to lay off 17 Mental Health Specialists. DOC and OYA would then replace these positions with certified social workers. It is not clear whether or not certified social workers would cost the agencies more or less than they currently pay for these services.