

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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**Action:** Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means  
**Vote:** 5 - 3 - 0  
**Yeas:** Doherty, Hoyle, Kennemer, Weidner, Greenlick  
**Nays:** Cannon, Parrish, Thompson  
**Exc.:** 0  
**Prepared By:** Bayley Gelt, Legislative Policy Intern  
**Meeting Dates:** 3/16, 4/8

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Establishes Committee on Prescribing Psychologists (CPP) within Oregon Medical Board (OMB). Identifies composition and duties of CPP. Stipulates that OMB may issue certificate of prescriptive authority to qualified psychologists as well as rules and procedures. Lists certificate requirements for applicable psychologists. Requires OMB, with concurrence by State Board of Psychological Examiners, to adopt rules requiring psychologist maintain ongoing collaboration with health care professional who oversees patient's medical care; that collaboration be recorded; and, that health care professional not be liable for injuries to patient from psychologist's care. Allows OMB to deny, suspend, limit or revoke certificate if inappropriate use of authority is established. Declares emergency; effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Integrated care model
- Mental health parity
- Training of psychiatrists to prescribing psychologists
- Scope of practice
- Rural health impacts

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Requires OMB, with concurrence by State Board of Psychological Examiners, to adopt rules requiring psychologist maintain ongoing collaboration with health care professional who oversees patient's medical care; that collaboration be recorded; and, that health care professional not be liable for injuries to patient from psychologist's care.

**BACKGROUND:** In Oregon, to be eligible to practice as a licensed psychologist, a person needs to have a minimum of three academic years of full time graduate study in psychology, one of which is a year of residency. To be credentialed, psychologists must pass the Board of Psychologist Examiners exam. Psychologists at any level in Oregon may not prescribe medications; such prescriptions are prescribed by physicians. In 2010 similar legislation, Senate Bill 1046, passed the Oregon House and Senate, but was vetoed by former Governor Ted Kulongoski. Currently, Louisiana and New Mexico grant prescriptive authority to trained and certified psychologists.

In 1987 the United States Department of Defense created the Psychopharmacology Demonstration Project (PDP) with the goal to give military patients comprehensive mental health care from a single provider. The program began in 1991 and concluded in 1997. Thirteen clinical psychologists participated, but only ten completed the training to prescribe. The ten clinical psychologists provided psychological services and issued prescriptions for active duty members, retired military personnel and their families without incident.

Two evaluations were made of the program. The first was the Vector Research, Incorporated evaluation, which found that the program was feasible and cost-effective. The second evaluation by the General Accounting Office, stated that PDP was successful in meeting the goal, but expansion of PDP was not necessary, citing that the branches of the armed forces had an appropriate number of psychiatrists and psychologists to care for wartime and veteran patients.

4/14/2011 10:42:00 AM

*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*