

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 7 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Cannon, Doherty, Hoyle, Parrish, Weidner, Greenlick, Thompson

Nays: 0

Exc.: Kennemer

Prepared By: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 4/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows Occupational Therapy Licensing Board (OTLB) to deny, suspend, revoke or refuse to renew license or impose probationary conditions if licensee or applicant violates statutes administered by OTLB. Repeals provisions requiring OTLB to issue warning prior to imposing fine. Establishes maximum fine of \$1000. Allows OTLB to issue subpoenas without chairperson signature. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Issues relating to first warning requirement
- Barriers to obtaining signatures for subpoena

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Occupational Therapy Licensing Board (OTLB) regulates occupational therapy practice to ensure that only qualified persons provide occupational therapy services. OTLB sets the standards of practice and examines applicants for licensure, issues licenses to qualified applicants, investigates complaints and takes appropriate disciplinary action when violations are found to have occurred.

Currently, OTLB issues a warning before imposing a civil penalty, regardless of whether the violation is serious or minor, and OTLB can only discipline licensees for violations that “affect the health, welfare or safety of the public.” Additionally, OTLB does not have the authority to discipline licensees for other violations, such as not completing continuing education requirements.