



Oregon

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To: The Honorable Phil Barnhart, Chair, House Revenue Committee

From: Holly Mercer, Interim Director, Oregon Health Licensing Agency

Date: March 22, 2013

Re: **House Bill 2101A – Standardization**

What the measure would do: This measure continues to streamline Oregon Health Licensing Agency (Agency) program standards, regulations and requirements. Amendments maximize benefits of uniformity in licensing cycles, fees, continuing education and administration among the Agency's professions, increasing efficient use of resources. Creates program adjustments to continue to achieve solutions and outcomes for consumer protection and reduce barriers to licensure.

Background: Currently the agency oversees 11 distinct programs with 21 specific professions, each having its own statutory requirements for licensure, renewal, licensure status, continuing education, licensure posting requirements and terminology.

Solution: The new provisions standardize authorization status for all Agency programs and define authorization, applying it uniformly throughout Agency statutes. The new provision also consolidates all active, inactive, and expired renewals into Agency statutory authority. This will allow the Agency to carry out each program renewal process uniformly. The bill also consolidates program fee provisions into Agency statutes and allows the Agency to charge fees for dormant renewals and educational classes or training.

Committee Amendment: The Section 53a amendment revises ORS 694.065(2) to allow licensed audiologists to supervise hearing aid specialist trainees. The amendment stipulates that audiologists who supervise hearing aid specialist trainees must comply with hearing aid specialist statutes and administrative rules during supervision of trainees and be subject to sanctions for non-compliance of hearing aid specialist statutes and rules.

Support and Opposition: The programs under the Agency support this legislative concept. There is no known opposition.

Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal impact.

Contact: Holly Mercer, Interim Director, Oregon Health Licensing Agency; email holly.mercer@state.or.us; Telephone (503) 373-2084