

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

Senate Committee on Senate Health Care

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, statement not yet issued**FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Zena Rockowitz, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs Oregon Health Authority to study the need for and development of recommendations to change licensure of health care practitioners to treat individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders. Requires submission of report to Legislative Assembly. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

BACKGROUND: Behavior analysis is a therapeutic modality that is often used to treat people with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). ADS is a developmental disability that can cause mild to significant social, communication and behavioral difficulties. Children or adults with ADS might exhibit symptoms such as repetitive actions and hand motions, difficulty with eye contact, trouble understanding the feelings of others, trouble adopting to routine changes, unusual reactions to certain sensations and difficulty expressing needs using typical words or emotions.

The Behavioral Analysis Regulatory Board was created in the Health Licensed Office by SB 365 in 2013. It licenses behavioral analysts and assistant behavioral analysts. It also provides registration for behavior analysis interventionists, as well as other licensed health care professionals whose scope of practice includes behavior analysis (e.g., psychologists). There are other boards which include applied behavior analysis in their scope of practice and these licensed health professionals must be dual licensed and registered with their respective boards and the Behavioral Analysis Board.