

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Senate Health Care

REVENUE: No revenue impact**FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Zena Rockowitz, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 4/8, 4/20

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:

- Revising license and registration process for providers of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services
- ABA is within scope of practice of many existing health care professions
- Dual registration requirements for qualified licensed professionals
- Difficulty with present regulatory framework
- Reimbursement of ABA

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: -4 Amendment: Replaces measure. Creates definitions for “applied behavior analysis”. Defines “licensed health care professional” as including individual whose practice includes applied behavior analysis and is licensed by certain regulatory boards. Requires behavior analysis to include certain licensed health care professionals. Allows individual actively practicing applied behavior analysis to claim reimbursement if individual submits documentation to Health Licensing Office. Adds two members to Behavior Analysis Regulatory Board (board). Modifies requirements for establishing rules for registration of behavior analysis interventionists. Creates title protections. Includes board in certain provisions under health professional regulatory boards regulated by Health Licensing Office.

BACKGROUND: Behavior analysis is a therapeutic modality that is often used to treat people with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). ASD is a developmental disability that can cause mild to significant social, communication and behavioral difficulties. Children or adults with ASD 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.

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

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