

**STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****Joint Committee On Ways and Means****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:****Action:****Meeting Dates:****Vote:****Prepared By:** Linda Ames, Budget Analyst

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Increases the Behavior Analysis Regulatory Board (BARB) membership from seven members to nine. Eliminates the BARB requirement to register licensed health care professionals and behavior analysis interventionists. Permits criteria for licensure to include certification by another agency approved by BARB. Requires fingerprinting for licensure. Directs Health Licensing Office to register behavior analysis interventionists. Creates title protections. Incorporates BARB under health professional regulatory boards and Health Licensing Office provisions. Permits insurance reimbursement to certain licensed health care professionals actively practicing applied behavior analysis through July 1, 2018 and requires documentation to Health Licensing Office. Allows health benefit plan to establish credentialing requirements for provision of behavior analysis. Creates operative date of November 1, 2015. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Fiscal impact

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Modifies the composition of the Board, but maintains the overall Board membership at nine. It also changes the date that documentation is required to be submitted to Health Licensing Office from December 31, 2015 to April 30, 2016 by certain providers actively practicing.

**BACKGROUND:**

Applied behavior analysis is a therapeutic modality that is often used to treat people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). ASD is a developmental disability that can cause mild to significant social, communication and behavioral difficulties. The Behavioral Analysis Regulatory Board (BARB) was created by SB 365 (2013). SB 365 also required coverage of ASD by health benefit plans. The BARB 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). These health care professionals must currently be dual registered with their respective boards and the BARB. Oregon is one of 16 states which licenses behavior analysts and one of six states to have a licensing board. Some providers are not certified or licensed because they completed training and education before licensing was available in 2013.