

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services and Early Childhood

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 03/31/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 02/26, 03/31

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Gelser, Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Olsen

Prepared By: Cheyenne Ross, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Makes explicit State Boards' authority to deny licensure due to conviction for sex crime. Applies to Boards of Psychologist Examiners, Licensed Social Workers, and Licensed Professional Counselors.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Introduction of measure on behalf of former Representative Tim Freeman
- Existing authority of state regulatory bodies
- Written materials received concerning measure

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

State licensing boards protect Oregonians through licensing and regulating a variety of practices, including psychology, social work and professional counseling. The Oregon Board of Psychologist Examiners examines and licenses all persons in Oregon who engage in the practice of psychology; the Board of Licensed Social Workers licenses and regulates approximately 4,300 social workers and the Board of Licensed Professional Counselors regulates mental health counselors and marriage and family therapists. With some variations, each board has the authority to deny licensure to applicants based on criminal conduct, including certain misdemeanors, as well as for conduct that is not criminal. Senate Bill 430 makes that authority explicit for applicants convicted of sex crimes.