

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 230 - A

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2015 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Makes law requiring certain health care workers to submit demographic, education and other information to health care worker regulatory boards apply to all health care workers.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, Board of Chiropractic Examiners, Board of Licensed Social Workers, Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists, Board of Massage Therapists [Semi-Independent Agency], Board of Naturopathic Medicine, Respiratory Therapist and Polysommographic Technologist Licensing Board, Board of Optometry [Semi-Independent Agency], Board of Psychologist Examiners, Board of Medical Imaging, Board of Dentistry, Board of Licensed Dietitians, Board of Nursing, Board of Pharmacy, Oregon Medical Board, Occupation Therapy Licensing Board, Physical Therapist Licensing Board [Semi-Independent Agency]

Local Government Mandate:

This does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

Senate Bill 230 redefines “health care workforce regulatory board” to include the following boards, and requires health care workforce regulatory boards to provide certain health care workforce information to the Oregon Health Authority in order for OHA to maintain a health care work force database:

1. State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
2. State Board of Chiropractic Examiners
3. State Board of Licensed Social Workers
4. Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists
5. Board of Licensed Dietitians
6. State Board of Massage Therapists
7. Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine
8. Respiratory Therapist and Polysommographic Technologist Licensing Board
9. Oregon Board of Optometry
10. State Board of Psychologist Examiners
11. Board of Medical Imaging

The bill clarifies language regarding the content, manner and form of the workforce information required to be provided by all health care regulatory boards and their licensees to OHA.

Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

The fiscal impact of this bill to the Oregon Health Authority is minimal. If this bill passes, OHA will need to work with the new boards to bring each board onto the workforce data collection platform, including organizing meetings with new boards, adopting rules, creating and managing online questionnaires to collect data, and perform additional data processing and reporting.

OHA anticipates needing the work of one part-time limited duration Research Analyst 3 position for the first six months to carry out this work. Current statutes authorize OHA to establish fees to cover the costs of collecting and reporting this information. At present, OHA charges \$5 per licensee. Based on

the current membership of these ten boards and the current fee of \$5, OHA estimates collecting an additional \$67,250 Other Funds in fee revenues during 2015-17 biennium, and \$258,000 Other Funds revenues for the 2017-19 biennium. If expansion of reporting requirements results in a savings due to economy of scale, OHA would reduce the \$5 per licensee fee.

The revenue amounts in this fiscal are projected incremental costs for an already existing reporting system. Because of this, OHA does not anticipate needing additional Other Funds limitation and position authority for the 2015-17 biennium as a result of this bill.

Health Care Licensing Boards

With the passage of this bill, the new licensing boards will incur costs of collection and submission of the required information, including the one-time costs of preparing forms, modifying databases, creation of rules, and notification of licensees. Current statutes authorize licensing boards to establish fees to cover the costs of collecting and reporting this information. The boards may have to increase license renewal fees to acquire the revenue necessary to cover these costs.

Nine of the boards report that passage of this bill will have minimal fiscal impact to their agency with anticipated cost ranging from \$9,000 to \$40,000.

One board, the Board of Optometry is concerned that the bill may have an indeterminate fiscal impact to the agency. The Board of Optometry reports that all its licensing and renewal processes are conducted on paper through the US Postal Services. Licensee information are kept using a rudimentary database. If the Board has to upgrade or replace its system in order to capture the required information, the fiscal impact of this bill to the Board could range from \$27,000 to \$128,000.

Note that the Board of Massage Therapists, the Board of Optometry, and the Physical Therapists Licensing Board are a semi-independent state agency subject to ORS 182.456 to 182.472. The agency's budget is not subject to Executive Branch review, or approval or modification by the Legislative Assembly