

HB 2319 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Prepared By: Kim To, Fiscal Administrative Supervisor

Meeting Dates: 3/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Merges the administration, regulatory oversight and centralized service of the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists with the State Board of Psychologist Examiners to form the Oregon Mental Health Regulatory Agency. The boards will continue to maintain separate authority over consumer protection and determining the qualifications of their respective regulated professions. The two boards will jointly appoint the director for the Oregon Mental Health Regulatory Agency. Becomes operative on January 1, 2018. Declares emergency; effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND:

In October of 2013, the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists and the State Board of Psychologist Examiners entered into an interagency agreement to establish a pilot project to share the same Executive Director and Management Analyst. The boards agreed to cooperate and share resources while still maintaining their independence as health regulatory boards. The project was deemed successful and was renewed for the 2015-2017 biennium; however, there is still potential for more efficiencies to better serve the customers.

The boards evaluated the results of the project and jointly recommend, with the support of the Governor and the Chief Financial Office, to bring the administration of both boards under one agency. House Bill 2319 creates the Mental Health Regulatory Agency to provide the administrative and regulatory oversight and centralized services for the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists and the State Board of Psychologist Examiners under one joint director.