

**HB 2319**

**Relating to mental health agencies**

---

HB 2319 merges the administration and centralized services of the Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists with the Board of Psychologist Examiners to form the Oregon Mental Health Regulatory Agency. The two boards will jointly appoint one director for the Agency. Passage of this bill is anticipated to realize efficiencies and savings for the two boards. The budgetary impact of this bill is incorporated in SB 5513, the budget appropriation bill for the Oregon Mental Health Regulatory Agency.

The Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists oversees a licensing program for Licensed Professional Counselors and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists. The Board of Psychologist Examiners oversees a licensing programs for Licensed Psychologists. The two boards will continue to maintain separate authority over consumer protection and determining the qualifications of their respective regulated professions. In addition, this merging of the administrative and centralized services of these two boards does not affect the certification or regulatory oversight of any other practicing mental or behavioral health professionals.

The Education Subcommittee recommends HB 2319 be reported out do pass.