



HEALTH LICENSING OFFICE

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May 17, 2017

TO: The Honorable Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair  
Senate Judiciary Committee

FROM: Sylvie Donaldson, Director  
Health Licensing Office  
Public Health Division  
Oregon Health Authority  
503-373-1974

SUBJECT: House Bill 2633A, Sex Offender Treatment

Chair Prozanski and members of the committee; I am Sylvie Donaldson, director of the Health Licensing Office.

While the Health Licensing Office is neutral on all bills, I am here to talk about the impact of House Bill 2633A. This bill changes the statute that created a certification for sex offender treatment providers.

The existing statute defines “sex offender” as someone who is “a person convicted or adjudicated of a sex crime, as defined in ORS 163A.005, or a sexual offense as provided in ORS 163.305 to 163.467, and mandated by a court, a releasing authority, including the Oregon Youth Authority, or the Oregon Health Authority to successfully complete a sex offender treatment program.” HB 2633A broadens that definition to include someone who has been referred for treatment by DHS, a school board or who self-refers. The term “sex abuser” allows the provider to treat more kinds of clients who need help.

The bill adds a level of certification aimed at treatment providers who work in rural areas and may not see enough clients to meet the direct clinical contact hours required in other levels of certification. This authorization allows a practitioner to provide limited services.

HB 2633A also requires a treatment provider to have an Oregon mental health professional license or equivalent license by Jan. 1, 2021. This requirement closes a loophole created by 2007's HB 3233, which allowed for grandfathering of individuals who did not hold a mental health professional certification or license. Some of these individuals are still practicing, and questions about quality of care have been raised.

The bill's language is simple and straightforward, and it fits with how the Health Licensing Office operates.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify; I am available if there are any questions.