

HB 2503 A -A7, -A8 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Prepared By: Kim To, Fiscal Administrative Supervisor

Meeting Dates: 5/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Health Licensing Office (HLO) within the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to establish a new board and program for licensing and regulating the practice of lactation consultants. Authorizes HLO to adopt rules and establish licensure fees. Outlines requirements for certification, and requires lactation consultants to complete continuing education related to cultural competency and trauma-informed care through programs approved by HLO. Exempts individuals who contract with OHA to promote or support breast feeding through the Women, Infants and Children Program from licensing requirements. Takes effect on passage. Licensing requirements are operative on January 1, 2018.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A7 Specifies that the Health Licensing Office has oversight and disciplinary authority over licensed lactation consultants.

-A8 Clarifies that certified lactation counselors are not subject to the licensing requirements of this bill.

BACKGROUND:

Lactation consultants are professional breast feeding specialists trained to teach mothers how to feed their baby. Most lactation consultants are trained and certified by the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners. The Oregon Health Licensing Office (OHLO) is the central licensing and regulatory office that oversees 14 health and related boards, councils and programs in Oregon. OHLO reviews and approves applicant qualifications, conducts examinations, inspects licensed facilities and independent contractors, responds to and investigates consumer complaints, and disciplines licensees who are found in violation of state requirements.