

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

79th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2017 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

Measure: HB 3355 - A13

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

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Measure Description:

Authorizes State Board of Psychologist Examiners to issue certificate of prescriptive authority to licensed psychologist who meets specified requirements.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Board of Psychologist Examiners, Oregon Medical Board

Analysis:

This bill authorizes the State Board of Psychologist Examiners (OBPE) to issue a certificate authorizing a psychologist with certain experience and education to prescribe drugs, other than opiate-based narcotics, that are used in the treatment of mental disorders. The bill creates a Committee on Prescribing Psychologists (CRxP) to advise OBPE on certification criteria, formularies and application requests. The provisions of the bill take effect July 1, 2018 and OBPE is authorized to charge fees to cover the costs associated with the new program.

The CRxP is required to do the following:

1. Review and make recommendations to the State Board of Psychologist Examiners on clinical residency programs proposed by applicants seeking a conditional certificate of prescriptive authority;
2. Review and make recommendations to the State Board of Psychologist Examiners on applications submitted for certificates of prescriptive authority;
3. Develop and make recommendations to the State Board of Psychologist Examiners regarding the formulary and make recommendations for annual revisions of the formulary;
4. Develop and make recommendations to the State Board of Psychologist Examiners regarding standards, examinations and continuing education for prescribing psychologists; and
5. Report to the State Board of Psychologist Examiners regarding the use of prescriptive authority by prescribing psychologists.

OBPE estimates there are 15 eligible psychologists in Oregon who may apply for certification in the 2017-19 biennium, and 30 who may apply in the 2019-2021 biennium. Because other states, such as New Mexico and Illinois, have similar prescribing psychologist certification programs, there are examples for the CRxP to rely on as they develop the program for Oregon.

CRxP members are appointed by the Medical Board, the Board of Pharmacy and OBPE. Once members are appointed, the CRxP will convene and make recommendations to OBPE on the formulary and the education and examination criteria. Developing these recommendations may take multiple meetings. Before any applications can be processed, OBPE will have to adopt the recommendations of the CRxP, develop an application process, and set the fee schedule.

The fiscal impact of this bill to OBPE is \$55,762 Other Funds. This includes a limited duration Operations and Policy Analyst 3 position for six months and \$6,575 in services and supplies. OBPE is also requesting a permanent, half-time Administrative Specialist 1 for ongoing staff support, however, once the initial recommendations for the formulary and education standards are adopted, the small number of potential

applicants may limit the need for significant staff support of the CRxP. If the program grows, permanent staff may be needed. The Legislative Fiscal Office is concerned about the feasibility of a sustainable, self-supporting fee structure for the program. Assuming 15 applications for the 2017-2019 biennium, fees would need to be set at about \$3,750 per applicant.

Once the fee schedule is established and program parameters are more defined, OBPE may need to request additional expenditure limitation for ongoing program administrative and staffing needs.

The -A13 amendment adds prescribing nurse practitioners to the list of professionals, along with prescribing physicians, who can approve prescriptions and collaborate with psychologists seeking prescribing authority. The -A13 replaces the pharmacist member on the Committee on Prescribing Psychologists with a prescribing nurse practitioner, and changes the rotating terms of the board members. The -A13 does not change the original fiscal impact determination.