



HEALTH LICENSING OFFICE
PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

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Date February 8, 2017

TO: The Honorable Mitch Greenlick, Chair
House Committee on Health Care

FROM: Sylvie Donaldson, Director
Health Licensing Office
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SUBJECT: House Bill 2301, OHA Housekeeping

Chair Greenlick and members of the House Committee on Health Care; I am Sylvie Donaldson, Director of the Health Licensing Office (Office). I am here today to provide information on House Bill 2301 which is primarily a housekeeping bill for the Public Health Division. There are two amendments that directly affect the Office: (1) streamlining efforts regarding investigations, disclosure of records and confidentiality; and (2) changes to the education and supervision for environmental health registrants.

- 1) Several of boards under the Office jurisdiction have mixed statutory authority regarding investigations, in disclosure and confidentiality. The measure streamlines those authorities and allows conformity with administration where necessary. The measure also takes into consideration keeping certain information confidential which is consistent with other confidentiality laws (ORS 676.175) and allows discretion if disclosure of information could be used to identify the complainant to the person who is subject to the investigation. This amendments would also divide professions/boards under the Office into two categories: 1) health-related professions/boards such as direct entry midwifery and respiratory therapy, and 2) trade professions/boards such as body art and advanced esthetics, for the purpose of disclosure and confidentiality purposes.
- 2) The amendment would remove the 45 hours in science courses within a bachelor's

degree and broaden the requirement to "only" having a bachelor's degree to obtain an environmental health registration. The measure also eliminates language allowing other persons possessing equal qualifications to supervise in lieu of being an environmental health specialist. For consistency the bill also aligns schooling received while serving in the armed forces with other boards statutes.

Requested amendments are as follows:

The changes to the Environmental Health Registration Board when drafted were meant to reduce barriers to obtain either an environmental health specialist registration or a trainee registration. Requested amendments are as follows:

- Retain the current law which requires 45 hours in science courses however allow them to obtain "outside" of a bachelor's degree. For example if an individual has a bachelor's degree in Community Health but was not required to obtain 45 hours in science courses, the individual could obtain the science course after obtaining the bachelor's degree.
- Align the trainee registration education with the requirement for permanent registration – require 45 hours in science courses “outside” of a bachelor’s degree.
- Maintain the language allowing the ability for persons possessing equal qualifications, such as Department of Environmental Quality employees.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.