



Oregon

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Before the
House Committee on Health Care

House Bill 2394

The Board of Nursing wishes to provide informational testimony regarding HB 2394. While the Board has no position on this bill, it does extend appreciation to Representative Greenlick for bringing this bill forward on behalf of the Health Professionals' Services Program, Oregon's alternative-to-discipline program for impaired healthcare professionals.

Current statute allows only licensees diagnosed with alcohol or substance abuse or a mental health disorder to be enrolled in the HPSP. If a licensee is diagnosed with a physical condition that could possibly affect the provision of safe patient care, the Oregon State Board of Nursing is not able to grant a license or allow continued practice unless that licensee is placed on public discipline through an order for Probation. HB 2394 would allow the OSBN the option of placing licensees with diagnosed physical conditions in HPSP based upon the fact pattern of the investigation.

The bill would also allow for a one-year monitored practice for those licensees who may be reported for impaired practice, but do not meet the current statutory requirements of a substance use disorder or mental health diagnosis in order to be placed in the alternative to discipline program. A year of monitored practice would allow the licensee to provide evidence of safe practice.

The Board would like to point out one issue with the current version of the bill. As written, HB 2394 references the Oregon Health Authority as the oversight body for the HPSP program. Based upon legislation passed in 2015, the oversight of the HPSP will revert to the health care licensing boards who utilize the program on July 1, 2017. References to the Oregon Health Authority should be removed.

The Board would be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have. Thank you for the opportunity to submit information regarding HB 2394.