

HB 2319 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 03/08/17

Action: Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Alonso Leon, Buehler, Greenlick, Hack, Hayden, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer, Malstrom, Nosse

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates the Mental Health Regulatory Agency. Directs the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists and the State Board of Psychologist Examiners to jointly appoint the Agency's Director, who is to serve at the direction of the boards. Abolishes any existing director or other administrator positions. Specifies the duties and responsibilities of the Agency. Specifies that the Agency expenses shall be paid by the boards. Becomes operative on January 1, 2018. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- 2013 Pilot Project between Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists and the State Board of Psychologist Examiners
- The Project was renewed for 2015-2017 biennium
- Project shared the same Executive Director and Management Analyst
- Shared duties and responsibilities that will be under the new agency
- Concerns relating to creating a new agency

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In October of 2013, the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists and the State Board of Psychologist Examiners entered into an interagency agreement to establish a pilot project to share the same Executive Director and Management Analyst. The boards agreed to cooperate and share resources while still maintaining their independence as health regulatory boards. The project was deemed successful and was renewed for the 2015-2017 biennium; however, there is still potential for more efficiencies to better serve the customers.

The boards evaluated the results of the project and jointly recommend, with the support of the Governor and the Chief Financial Office, to bring the administration of both boards under one agency. House Bill 2319 creates the Mental Health Regulatory Agency to provide the administrative and regulatory oversight and centralized services for the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists and the State Board of Psychologist Examiners under one joint director.