

SB 48 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Monnes Anderson

Senate Committee On Human Services

Action Date: 04/17/17

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Gelser, Knopp, Monnes Anderson, Olsen

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs certain professional regulatory boards to collaborate with Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to adopt rules regarding reporting completion of continuing education related to suicide prevention upon reauthorization to practice. Establishes record keeping and reporting requirements. Requires OHA to submit biennial report of compliance to Legislative Assembly by August 1 in even numbered years. Requires OHA approve and develop list of continuing education opportunities. Operative January 1, 2018. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Medical and behavioral health professionals' role in diagnosis and treatment of suicide risk
- Other state laws regarding suicide prevention continuing education
- Current level of training in suicide prevention
- Current continuing education requirements for medical and behavioral health professionals

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND:

Over 760 suicides occurred in Oregon in 2015, and according to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), suicide is the second leading cause of death for Oregonians under age 35. That same year, around 2,000 people were hospitalized for suicide associated behavior. A variety of medical and non-medical professionals come into contact with and care for people at risk of suicide, but there is not currently a periodic continuing education requirement among them to ensure that their training in suicide prevention is up-to-date.

Senate Bill 48-A directs state licensing boards for certain medical and non-medical professions ("boards") to collaborate with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to adopt rules requiring practitioners to report, upon reauthorization to practice, the completion of any OHA-approved suicide prevention continuing education opportunities. OHA is required to develop a list of approved trainings. Boards must document and report practitioners' completion of such trainings annually to OHA, and OHA in turn reports that data biennially to the legislature.