

**HB 4031 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Behavioral Health**

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**Prepared By:** Zoe Larmer, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/4, 2/6

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires persons providing certain counseling services, such as hypnotherapists, life coaches, parenting coaches, sexologists, and somatic therapists to obtain licensure. Creates a state registry within the Health Licensing Office (HLO) for these groups. Directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to assess supply and demand of behavioral health professionals in Oregon over the next ten years, report findings of assessment to the legislature and make recommendations for legislation no later than December 31, 2020. Changes terms within behavioral health statutes, such as "drug addict," with person-first terms, such as "person with a substance use disorder." Describes "person-first." Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

*REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.*

*FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.*

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Certain counseling services such as hypnotherapists, life coaches, parenting coaches, sexologists, and somatic therapists are not licensed professionals. This has reportedly created difficulties both for some consumers wishing to register complaints and for the state's ability to identify practitioners in these areas. This bill would create a state registry within the Health Licensing Office (HLO) for these professions. Person-first language originated in the disability community and describes what a person "has" rather than who a person "is." The Nevada Legislature changed its behavioral health statutes to reflect person-first language in 2019.

HB 4031 removes the exemption of the requirement for licensure for people providing certain counseling services, directs the Oregon Health Authority to assess the future supply and demand of behavioral health professionals, and modifies behavioral health statutory terms with person-first language.