

HB 4031 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health

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Meeting Dates: 2/4, 2/6

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.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Pending amendments to remove sections one and three of House Bill 4031
- History of Oregon's Practice Act for licensed professional counselors and therapists (1989)
- Need to assess Oregon's behavioral health workforce
- Jurisdiction of the Board of Licensed Counselors & Therapists
- Washington and Vermont as a potential regulatory model for alternative behavioral therapy providers
- Consumers ability to register a complaint and potential disciplinary process; consumer notification or disclosure by alternative behavioral providers
- Professionalization of alternative behavioral therapy providers

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 Removes requirements for persons providing certain alternative behavioral health therapy to obtain licensure. Removes creation of a state registry within the Health Licensing Office (HLO) for alternative behavioral health therapists. Removes requirement to change statutory terms within behavioral health using person-first language." Modifies the criteria for the behavioral health workforce assessment. Directs the Oregon Health Authority to consult with the Oregon Department of Education, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and relevant health professional regulatory boards to determine relevant information for the assessment. Specifies OHA must submit the assessment to an interim committee related to Behavioral Health no later than November 1, 2020.

REVENUE: Revenue impact statement issued: no impact

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

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 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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.