

HB 4074 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 2/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines key terms, including genetic counseling, as assisting persons in understanding and adapting the medical, psychological, and familial implications of genetic conditions, among other factors. Authorizes the Health Licensing Office (HLO) to issue a license to practice genetic counseling if an applicant: (1) is 18 years of age, (2) is certified by a national certification organization for genetic counselors, (3) pays licensure fee, and (4) meets other requirements established in rule by HLO. Prohibits an individual from practicing genetic counseling unless the individual is licensed by HLO. Allows HLO to adopt rules to create licensure, refuse to issue or renew a license, and suspend or revoke or otherwise limit an authorization to practice genetic counseling. Imposes civil penalty for violation of licensure requirements. Becomes operative January 1, 2021. Takes effect on 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:

The American Society of Human Genetics states that genetic counselors are health professionals with specialized graduate degrees and training in medical genetics, genomics, and counseling. According to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), genetic services should be provided by a genetic specialist who has specialized education. Genetic counselors often engage individuals with risk assessment, patient education, facilitation of testing, results disclosure, among other services (OHA). As of January 2019, over 20 states have enacted licensure law for genetic counselors. Oregon Health and Science University reported approximately 60 genetic counselors were practicing in Oregon (2019).

House Bill 4074 establishes licensure for individuals to practice genetic counseling in Oregon