

## HB 4074 -3, -5, -6 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Health Care

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**Prepared By:** Oliver Droppers, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/4, 2/11, 2/13

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#### 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.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

##### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 Defines Down syndrome. Requires licensed genetic counsel, upon receipt of a positive test for Down syndrome or another chromosomal condition provide patient or their family information related to the condition that show a positive test. Directs Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to make available information to licensed genetic counselor specified information including information on the conditions and contact information for support programs and services. Specifies information provided must be culturally and linguistically appropriate for the patient or the patient's family. Authorizes OHA to adopt rules.

*REVENUE: Revenue impact statement issued: no impact.*

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

-5 Requires licensed genetic counselor to refer a patient to a licensed physician or other appropriate licensed health care practitioner if they become aware of a medical condition or disease that is outside the scope of practice of genetic counseling. Clarifies that a licensed genetic counselor is not authorized to diagnose, test, or treat a genetic or medical condition or disease.

*REVENUE: Revenue impact statement issued: no impact.*

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

-6 Requires licensed genetic counselor to practice counseling in a manner that is culturally and linguistically appropriate for the patient or their family. Allows licensed genetic counselor to use standards established by a national certification organization for genetic counselors. Specifies licensed genetic counselor shall provide contact information for support programs and services related to a patient's genetic or medical condition or disease.

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

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

#### 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

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*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*

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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