

# MEMORANDUM

Prepared for: Oregon State Senate

Date: October 27, 2021

- By: Leslie Porter, Analyst
- Re: Legislative Review of Executive Appointments

LPRO: LEGISLATIVE POLICY AND RESEARCH OFFICE

# **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY LICENSING BOARD**

The Governor has appointed the following individual to the Occupational Therapy Licensing Board subject to Senate confirmation.<sup>1</sup>

#### Appointee

Whitney Hooker of The Dalles; New Appointment

#### Term

November 19, 2021 – November 18, 2025

#### **Appointment/Confirmation Authority**

ORS 675.310 (2019)

#### Statement of Economic Interest<sup>2</sup>

Not required.

## **Statutory Requirements**<sup>3</sup>

The board consists of five members appointed by the Governor and subject to confirmation by the Senate.<sup>4</sup> All members of the board must be residents of this state. Board members must include:

- two licensed occupational therapists in this state with no less than three years of experience in occupational therapy immediately preceding their appointment (HOOKER, PERKINS);
- one licensed occupational therapy assistant (HILL); and
- two public individuals who are not otherwise eligible for appointment or a spouse, domestic partner, child, parent, or sibling of an individual who is a licensed occupational therapist or licensed occupational therapy assistant (JENKINS, MOORE).

Board members required to be occupational therapists or occupational therapy assistants may be selected by the Governor from a list of three to five nominees for each vacancy, submitted by:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Or. Const. art. III sect. 4, ORS 171.562 (2019), ORS 171.565 (2019).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> ORS 244.050 (2019).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> ORS 182.100 (2019) for affirmative action policy and ORS 236.115 (2019) for diversity criteria.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> ORS 675.310 (2019).

- the Occupational Therapy Association of Oregon, if the vacancy is in an occupational therapist position; or
- any professional organization representing occupational therapy assistants, if the vacancy is in an occupational therapy assistant position.

Members serve four-year terms and at the pleasure of the Governor. A member must be removed immediately from the board if, during the member's term, the member:

- is not a resident of this state;
- has been absent from three consecutive board meetings, unless at least one absence is excused;
- is not a licensed occupational therapist or a retired occupational therapist who was licensed and in good standing at the time of retirement, if the board member was appointed to serve on the board as an occupational therapist; or
- is not a licensed occupational therapy assistant or a retired occupational therapy assistant who was licensed and in good standing at the time of retirement, if the board member was appointed to serve on the board as an occupational therapy assistant.

The board must organize and elect from its membership a chairperson and vice chairperson, each of whom shall hold office for one year or until the election and qualification of a successor.<sup>5</sup>

### **Duties and Authority**

The board administers licensing for and provides general supervision of the practice of occupational therapy in this state.<sup>6</sup>

The board has power to:7

- deny, suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a license or impose probationary conditions;
- suspend or revoke the license of any person licensed by the board if the licensee is unable to practice with reasonable competence and safety due to the habitual or excessive use of drugs or alcohol, other chemical dependency, or a mental health condition;
- authorize all necessary disbursements to carry out the statutory provisions assigned to the board;
- suspend, revoke, or invalidate licenses for nonpayment of renewal fees, and restore licenses that have been suspended, revoked, or voided;
- with the approval of the Department of Administrative Services, adopt and collect license and license renewal fees;
- investigate any alleged violation of the laws administered by the board;
- in the conduct of an investigation, take evidence, take the depositions of witnesses, compel the appearance of witnesses, require answers to interrogatories, compel the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> ORS 675.320 (2019).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> ORS 675.210 to 675.340 (2019).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> ORS 675.320 to 675.336 (2019).

production of books, papers, accounts, documents and testimony pertaining to the matter under investigation, and issue subpoenas;

- enforce licensing provisions and generally supervise the practice of occupational therapy in this state;
- make and enforce rules for the procedure of the board and for regulating the practice of occupational therapy;
- establish minimum requirements for continuing education to be complied with by all licensees;
- establish minimum requirements for a limited permit to be complied with by all applicants prior to issuance of a limited permit;
- establish official abbreviations that may be used by persons licensed as occupational therapists or occupational therapy assistants;
- establish minimum requirements for supervised field work necessary for applicants;
- adopt rules that define the scope of the practice of occupational therapy and that reflect national standards for the practice of occupational therapy; and
- impose civil penalties for specified violations.

Policy Area: Health
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Position Number: 2
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