

HB 2115 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health

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Meeting Dates: 2/3, 4/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands reasons the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors & Therapists (OBLPCT) may sanction applicant or licensee to include unprofessional conduct. Authorizes OBLPCT to take any action necessary before January 1, 2022 to enable board to implement new standards by January 1, 2022. 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:

- Alignment with other medical and mental health boards
- Definition of unprofessional conduct

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists (OBLPCT) is housed in the Mental Health Regulatory Agency and oversees licensed professional counselors (LPCs) and licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFTs). OBLPCT's responsibilities include adopting rules and a code of ethics; granting licenses; examining and passing on the qualifications of applicants to practice as LPCs and LMFTs; and maintaining and publishing a register of licensees. OBLPCT also investigates alleged statutory or rule violations, establishes procedures to review and investigate complaints, and reports biennially to the Legislative Assembly concerning its activities.

The board comprises eight members all appointed to the board by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate for three year terms. Three positions on the board are for professional counselors, two are for marriage and family therapists, one is for a faculty of a school that trains counselors or therapists, and two are for members of the public. Licensees are required to complete 40 hours of continuing education, including a minimum of six in professional ethics and four in cultural competency training.

House Bill 2115 expands reasons the OBLPCT may sanction applicant or licensee to include unprofessional conduct.