

HB 2117 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

Prepared By: C. Ross, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 5/4, 5/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Repeals Oregon Board of Psychology's (BOP's) regulatory authority over psychologist associates. Directs BOP to continue regulating previous licensees. Retains examples of duties that psychologist associates may perform under periodic direct supervision of licensed psychologists and retains authority to approve associates' petitions to perform such duties independently. Operative January 1, 2022. Effective 91st day after *sine die* adjournment.

House committee: unanimous

House floor: unanimous (12 excused)

Minimal fiscal impact; no revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Board of Psychology (BOP) regulates the practice of psychology and is located within the Mental Health Regulatory Agency. It is responsible for adopting rules and a code of ethics; establishing standards of service, education and training, and qualifications to practice; investigating alleged violations; and imposing appropriate sanctions.

Psychologist associates are individuals under the direct supervision of a licensed psychologist, who may administer tests and assessments, or engage in vocational or educational planning, among other duties, but who do not have a doctoral degree. Currently, psychologist associates must apply to the BOP and pay a fee; possess a master's degree in psychology from an approved program; pass any required examinations; be deemed of good moral character; complete an approved internship or one year of other training; complete an additional three years of full-time work experience under the supervision of a licensed psychologist; and petition for BOP approval to perform duties independently.

House Bill 2117 repeals the BOP's regulatory authority over psychologist associates, but retains examples of duties they may perform under supervision and the authority to approve associates' petitions to perform duties independently.