House Bill 3360

Sponsored by Representative MCLAIN

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure as introduced.

Designates April 26 of each year as Occupational Therapy Day.
Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to Occupational Therapy Day; and declaring an emergency.

Whereas occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants work in a variety of practice settings, including schools, hospitals, outpatient clinics, home health agencies, skilled nursing facilities, community mental health programs, privately owned clinics, detention centers and correctional facilities; and

Whereas occupational therapists often work with other health care providers, including physical therapists, speech-language pathologists, physicians, psychologists, social workers and nurses; and

Whereas “occupation” can be defined for purposes of occupational therapy as the daily activities that people want and need to do in their daily lives; and

Whereas occupational therapists work with clients across an entire life span, from birth to old age, in order to help clients to obtain, regain or retain the greatest level of independence in their daily occupations, which makes occupational therapy the health care profession with the most diverse scope; and

Whereas in school settings, including early intervention, occupational therapists work with staff to ensure that students on individualized plans receive the support necessary to access their education, support students with feeding concerns by working on feeding teams, address individual physiological and sensory processing needs, provide transitional support for students immediately after school in developing work readiness skills and consult with districts on environmental and program-specific areas of need; and

Whereas in acute care settings, working with other acute care providers, occupational therapists evaluate clients’ wellness and readiness to be discharged based on observation of self-care safety and basic assessment of cognition, socioemotional state, mental health and physical well-being; and

Whereas in adult outpatient settings, occupational therapists serve a critical role in a client’s continuation of care for long-term conditions such as strokes, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson’s disease and post-concussion syndrome, provide many forms of hand therapy and work to create and expand on other areas of need such as chronic pain, opioid addiction and dependence, low vision and driving adaptation and rehabilitation; and

Whereas in pediatric outpatient settings, occupational therapists work to address a child’s primary occupation-play-and to promote development of foundational motor skills, cognitive skills, so-
Whereas in home health settings such as apartments, privately owned homes, assisted living homes or memory care facilities, occupational therapists support their clients in areas of personal need and self-care, provide fitting and training on the use of rehabilitation equipment, provide education on safety during transfers between activities, work to reduce fall risk and help clients to retain as much independence as possible in their daily occupations; and

Whereas in skilled nursing facilities, occupational therapists provide unique treatment approaches, education and training to guide clients to regain or learn compensatory techniques in occupations of self-care, mobility, cognition, safety, chronic condition management, executive function, social engagement and any occupations adversely affected by health concerns; and

Whereas in mental health settings, occupational therapists bring function into the therapy milieu by generalizing their knowledge and education into skills that the client can use in daily life in order to find recovery and to reduce the burden of disease on themselves, those around them and the health care system, and occupational therapists get clients actually doing the steps of their action plans by practicing the activities in the community as part of their rehabilitation; and

Whereas Oregon’s dedicated occupational therapy professionals deserve to be recognized for their vital and necessary work and for the direct influence they have in our communities; now, therefore,

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. April 26 of each year is designated as Occupational Therapy Day.

SECTION 2. This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect on its passage.