

## HB 4011 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Human Services

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**Action Date:** 02/10/22

**Action:** Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.  
(Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 6-0-1-0

**Yeas:** 6 - Nelson, Owens, Ruiz, Scharf, Schouten, Williams

**Exc:** 1 - Noble

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**Meeting Dates:** 2/8, 2/10

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates Mental Health Associate Incentive Program administered by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to provide loan repayment subsidies to qualified mental health associates who commit to serving with a child-caring agency for a minimum of two years. Appropriates \$250,000 to OHA for this purpose. Establishes the Child Welfare Cultural Equity Program administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS) to improve access to a diverse set of child welfare service providers and appropriates \$250,000 to DHS for this purpose. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provider and facility bed shortages due to COVID-19 pandemic
- Strategies to develop workforce capacities with inclusive representation

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Reduces the minimum number of years a qualified mental health associate must commit to serving with a child-caring agency from four, to two. Deletes qualified mental health associate apprenticeship program development and review of child welfare service provider rates.

#### BACKGROUND:

Qualified Mental Health Associate (QMHA) means a person delivering services under the direct supervision of a Qualified Mental Health Professional (QMHP) who meets the minimum qualifications as authorized by a Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA). There are two paths for QMHAs to obtain certification from the Mental Health and Addiction Certification Board of Oregon.

In 2021, the Oregon Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Program, a part of the Health Care Provider Incentive Program, was established to support rural and underserved urban communities in the recruitment and retention of high quality mental and behavioral health providers. These providers work in inpatient, outpatient, and community care settings serving patients regardless of their source of coverage. This program accepts applications from QMHAs, QMHPs, and both pre-licensed and licensed mental and behavioral health care providers. In exchange for service at a qualifying practice site, participants receive tax free funds to repay qualifying educational loan debt.

House Bill 4011 A creates an incentive program for QMHAs by providing loan repayment subsidies to those who commit to serving children in child-caring agencies for at least two years.