

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

HB 5024 Mental Health Regulatory Agency

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Education Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative McLain

HB 5024 is the budget bill for the Mental Health Regulatory Agency, which is composed of two separate, mental health licensing boards: the Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists and the Board of Psychology. The agency is supported by fees generated from licensing applications and renewals, examinations, and civil penalties. The agency receives no moneys from the General Fund.

The 2023-25 budget recommended by the Subcommittee totals \$5,774,268 Other Funds and includes 15 positions and 15.00 FTE, which is an increase of 5.2 percent above the 2021-23 legislatively approved budget. The recommended budget includes various adjustments to the current service level, including a cost reallocation that transfers 0.65 FTE between the boards; increased expenditure limitation to establish one permanent Administrative Specialist 1 position and to make a limited duration Investigator 2 position permanent; and various fee decreases anticipated by both boards in the biennium. The recommended budget also establishes a new source of fee revenue for the Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists from issuing limited permits. This new fee revenue is contingent on the passage of HB 3300, which authorizes the board to establish and collect a limited permit fee from out-of-state, licensed counselors and therapists that apply to practice in Oregon for a limited amount of time.

The Education Subcommittee recommends HB 5024 be amended by the –1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.