A-engrossed

House Bill 4151

Ordered by the House February 14
Including House Amendments dated February 14

Sponsored by Representatives SANCHEZ, REYNOLDS; Representatives ANDERSEN, BOWMAN, BYNUM, CONRAD, DEXTER, EVANS, GAMBA, GRAYBER, HARTMAN, HELM, JAVADI, LIVELY, NELSON, NGUYEN D, NOSSE, PHAM H, PHAM K, RUIZ, WALTERS, Senators CAMPOS, DEMBROW, FREDERICK, GOLDEN, GORSEK, JAMA, MANNING JR, PATTERSON, WOODS (at the request of Ballmer Institute, University of Oregon) (Presession filed.)

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. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act makes a small group to look at the youth behavioral workforce. (Flesch Readability Score: 77.8).

[Digest: Makes a task force about youth behavioral health. Starts soon. (Flesch Readability Score: 74.8).]

[Establishes the Task Force on Youth Behavioral Health Workforce. Directs the task force to identify strategies to increase access to and the diversity of Oregon's youth-serving behavioral health workforce. Requires the task force to submit a report to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to behavioral health not later than September 15, 2024.]

Directs the System of Care Advisory Council to establish a subcommittee on the youth behavioral health workforce. Requires the subcommittee to submit an initial report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to behavioral health not later than September 15, 2024, and a final report to the Legislative Assembly not later than December 15, 2025.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to youth behavioral health; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. (1) The System of Care Advisory Council shall convene a subcommittee on the youth behavioral health workforce.

(2) The subcommittee consists of:

(a) Members of the council, or designees of members of the council, who:

(A) Are potential employers of graduates of youth-serving training programs for youth-serving behavioral health professions for which there is no state-issued professional authorization, including employers in coordinated care organizations, substance use disorder treatment centers, behavioral health care organizations, community-based organizations and schools;

(B) Represent training programs for youth-serving behavioral health professions, including high school career and technical education programs, associate degree training programs, bachelor's degree training programs and skills training programs; and

(C) Represent culturally specific organizations that serve underserved communities;

(b) Representatives of health professional regulatory agencies that regulate behavioral and mental health care professions, including but not limited to the Oregon Board of Li-
licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists, the Oregon Board of Psychology and the  
State Board of Licensed Social Workers; and  
(c) The Early Learning System Director, or designee of the director.  
(3) If no members of the council meet a description provided in subsection (2)(a) of this  
section, the council shall appoint a community member who meets the description.  
(4) The subcommittee shall identify state-issued professional authorization options for  
existing and emerging behavioral health professions and for determining the structures and  
supports needed to sustain the youth behavioral health workforce. The subcommittee shall  
focus on behavioral health professions that have the potential to increase both equitable ac-
cess to behavioral health supports and the diversity of the existing behavioral health  
workforce to be more reflective of the youth population of this state. Additionally, the sub-
committee shall:  
(a) Identify existing and emerging behavioral health professions that serve the youth  
population of this state and for which there are no state-issued professional authorizations,  
including information about the defining characteristics of each profession and the ability  
of each profession to increase access to and diversity of the behavioral health workforce;  
(b) Provide recommendations regarding how to better align the behavioral health pro-
fessions described in paragraph (a) of this subsection with existing health professional regu-
laratory agencies;  
(c) Develop recommendations to establish state-issued professional authorizations to  
support expanding the behavioral health workforce that serves the youth population of this  
state; and  
(d) Identify strategies for creating pathways into the behavioral health professions that  
serve the youth population of this state for individuals who are underrepresented in the  
current behavioral health workforce.  
(5) The subcommittee shall submit, in the manner provided by ORS 192.245:  
(a) An initial report, which may include recommendations for legislation, to the interim  
committees of the Legislative Assembly related to behavioral health not later than Septem-
ber 15, 2024; and  
(b) A final report, which may include recommendations for legislation, to the Legislative  
Assembly not later than December 15, 2025.  
SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2024 Act is repealed on December 31, 2025.  
SECTION 3. This 2024 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2024 Act takes effect  
on its passage.