

# D R A F T

## SUMMARY

Digest: The Act makes OHA create a portal to vet a behavioral health care provider. The Act also lets some BH care providers supervise other BH care providers who have different licenses. The Act tells the MHRA to oversee and help run the BLSW. (Flesch Readability Score: 61.6).

Requires the Oregon Health Authority to, no later than June 30, 2027, adopt a uniform process for credentialing organizational behavioral health providers and establish a centralized portal for processing applications. Prohibits a coordinated care organization from requiring a behavioral health provider to comply with any additional credentialing procedures.

Requires the authority to minimize unnecessary administrative burden for individual and organizational behavioral health providers who serve medical assistance recipients and to report biennially to the Governor and the Legislative Assembly.

Allows certain licensed behavioral health care providers to provide supervision for other behavioral health care providers who hold different license types.

Provides that the Mental Health Regulatory Agency will provide administrative and regulatory oversight and centralized service for the State Board of Licensed Social Workers.

Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to behavioral health care providers; creating new provisions; amending ORS 675.030, 675.110, 675.166, 675.178, 675.595, 675.597 and 675.785; and prescribing an effective date.

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

## CREDENTIALING AND ADMINISTRATION

**SECTION 1.** (1) As used in this section:

(a) “Coordinated care organization” has the meaning given that term in ORS 414.025.

(b) “Organizational provider” has the meaning given that term in ORS 430.637.

**(2)** The Oregon Health Authority shall:

(a) Adopt by rule a uniform process for credentialing organizational providers; and

(b) Establish a centralized portal for processing credentialing applications.

**(3)** A coordinated care organization:

(a) Shall use the centralized portal established by the authority for credentialing organizational providers; and

(b) May not require an organizational provider to comply with any credentialing procedures other than the uniform process adopted by the authority under this section.

**SECTION 2.** The Oregon Health Authority shall establish a centralized credentialing portal and complete rulemaking required under section 1 of this 2026 Act no later than June 30, 2027.

**SECTION 3.** (1) As used in this section:

(a) “Behavioral health provider” includes:

(A) An individual who is licensed, certified or otherwise authorized to provide behavioral health care services in this state; and

(B) An organizational provider, as defined in ORS 430.637.

(b) “Medical assistance” has the meaning given that term in ORS 414.025.

**(2)** The Oregon Health Authority shall minimize unnecessary administrative burden for behavioral health providers who serve medical assistance recipients.

**(3)** In carrying out this section, the authority shall:

(a) Solicit suggestions from behavioral health providers; and

1 (b) Seek any necessary approval from the Centers for Medicare and  
2 Medicaid Services.

3 (4) Each biennium, the authority shall report to the Governor and  
4 the committees of the Legislative Assembly related to behavioral  
5 health in the manner provided in ORS 192.245. The report shall iden-  
6 tify:

7 (a) The efforts that the authority has made to solicit suggestions  
8 from behavioral health providers;

9 (b) Any suggestions from behavioral health providers that the au-  
10 thority has implemented; and

11 (c) The status of any request for approval from the Centers for  
12 Medicare and Medicaid Services.

13  
14 **SUPERVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS**

15  
16 **SECTION 4.** Section 5 of this 2026 Act is added to and made a part  
17 of ORS 675.510 to 675.600.

18 **SECTION 5.** (1) The State Board of Licensed Social Workers shall  
19 adopt rules to allow, in addition to those individuals regulated by the  
20 board, at least the following individuals to provide the supervision re-  
21 quired for the issuance of an authorization to practice regulated social  
22 work:

23 (a) A licensed psychologist, as defined in ORS 675.010;

24 (b) A licensed marriage and family therapist, as defined in ORS  
25 675.705; and

26 (c) A licensed professional counselor, as defined in ORS 675.705.

27 (2) In adopting rules under this section, the board may consult as  
28 necessary with the Oregon Board of Psychology and the Oregon Board  
29 of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists. If the rules  
30 adopted under this section allow for supervision by individuals regu-  
31 lated by another health professional regulatory board, the State Board

1 of Licensed Social Workers may consult with other health professional  
2 regulatory boards as necessary.

3 **SECTION 6.** Section 7 of this 2026 Act is added to and made a part  
4 of ORS 675.715 to 675.835.

5 **SECTION 7.** (1) The Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Coun-  
6 selors and Therapists shall adopt rules to allow, in addition to those  
7 individuals regulated by the board, at least the following individuals  
8 to provide the supervision required for the issuance of a license or  
9 registration to practice marriage and family therapy or professional  
10 counseling:

11 (a) A licensed psychologist, as defined in ORS 675.010; and

12 (b) A clinical social worker licensed under ORS 675.530.

13 (2) In adopting rules under this section, the board may consult as  
14 necessary with the Oregon Board of Psychology and the State Board  
15 of Licensed Social Workers. If the rules adopted under this section  
16 allow for supervision by individuals regulated by another health pro-  
17 fessional regulatory board, the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional  
18 Counselors and Therapists may consult with other health professional  
19 regulatory boards as necessary.

20 **SECTION 8.** ORS 675.030 is amended to read:

21 675.030. (1) Upon application for licensure accompanied by the established  
22 fee, the Oregon Board of Psychology shall issue a psychologist license to an  
23 applicant who performs to the satisfaction of the board in examinations  
24 prescribed by the board and furnishes evidence satisfactory to the board that  
25 the applicant:

26 (a) Has complied with all applicable provisions of ORS 675.010 to 675.150  
27 and the applicable rules of the board;

28 (b) Holds a doctoral degree in psychology from an approved doctoral  
29 program in psychology;

30 (c) Has satisfactorily completed courses and training required by the  
31 board;

(d) Has had two years of supervised employment in the field of psychology:

(A) Under the direction of a psychologist licensed in Oregon or under the direction of a person considered by the board to have equivalent supervisory competence; or

(B) In the military; and

(e) Is of good moral character. For purposes of this section, the lack of good moral character may be established by reference to acts or conduct that reflect moral turpitude or to acts or conduct that would cause a reasonable person to have substantial doubts about the individual's honesty, fairness and respect for the rights of others and for the laws of the state and the nation. The conduct or acts in question must be rationally connected to the applicant's fitness to practice psychology.

(2) The board shall adopt rules by which a person receiving post-doctoral supervision during the application process may enter into a contract to practice psychology under the supervision of a licensed psychologist, psychologist associate or a person considered by the board to have equivalent supervisory competence. An applicant who enters such a contract shall be designated as a psychologist resident or a psychologist associate resident, accordingly, and shall be subject to ORS 675.010 to 675.150.

**(3)(a) In establishing by rule a list of persons who are considered by the board to have equivalent supervisory competence for purposes of this section, the board shall include persons who are clinical social workers licensed under ORS 675.530, licensed marriage and family therapists, as defined in ORS 675.705, and licensed professional counselors, as defined in ORS 675.705.**

**(b) In adopting rules under this section, the board may consult as necessary with the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists and the State Board of Licensed Social Workers. If the rules adopted under this section allow for supervision by individuals regulated by another health professional regulatory board, the Oregon**

1 **Board of Psychology may consult with other health professional reg-**  
2 **ulatory boards as necessary.**

3 **SECTION 9. (1) Sections 5 and 7 of this 2026 Act and the amend-**  
4 **ments to ORS 675.030 by section 8 of this 2026 Act become operative**  
5 **on January 1, 2027.**

6 **(2) The Oregon Board of Psychology, the Oregon Board of Licensed**  
7 **Professional Counselors and Therapists and the State Board of Li-**  
8 **censed Social Workers may take any action before the operative date**  
9 **specified in subsection (1) of this section that is necessary to enable**  
10 **the boards to exercise, on and after the operative date specified in**  
11 **subsection (1) of this section, all of the duties, functions and powers**  
12 **conferred on the boards by sections 5 and 7 of this 2026 Act and the**  
13 **amendments to ORS 675.030 by section 8 of this 2026 Act.**

14  
15 **MENTAL HEALTH REGULATORY AGENCY**  
16

17 **SECTION 10. ORS 675.110 is amended to read:**

18 675.110. In addition to the powers otherwise granted under ORS 675.010  
19 to 675.150, the Oregon Board of Psychology has all powers necessary or  
20 proper to:

21 (1) Determine qualifications of applicants to practice psychology in this  
22 state, prepare, conduct and grade examinations and license qualified appli-  
23 cants who comply with the provisions of ORS 675.010 to 675.150 and the rules  
24 of the board.

25 (2) Grant or deny renewal of licenses and renew licenses that have lapsed  
26 for nonpayment of the renewal fee, subject to the provisions of ORS 675.010  
27 to 675.150.

28 (3) Suspend or revoke licenses, subject to ORS 675.010 to 675.150.

29 (4) Issue letters of reprimand and impose probationary periods with the  
30 authority to restrict the scope of practice of a licensed psychologist or to  
31 require practice under supervision.

(5) Impose civil penalties as provided in ORS 675.070.

(6) Restore licenses that have been suspended or revoked or voided by nonpayment of the renewal fee.

(7) Collect fees for application, examination and licensing of applicants, for renewal of licenses and for issuance of limited permits and use the fees to defray the expenses of the board as provided in ORS 675.140.

(8) Collect a delinquent renewal fee for licenses renewed after the deadline for renewal but before the grace period for renewal has expired.

(9) Investigate alleged violations of ORS 675.010 to 675.150.

(10) Issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses, take testimony, administer oaths or affirmations to witnesses, conduct hearings and require the production of relevant documents in all proceedings pertaining to the duties and powers of the board.

(11) Enforce ORS 675.010 to 675.150 and exercise general supervision over the practice of psychology in this state.

(12) Adopt a common seal.

(13) Formulate a code of professional conduct for the practice of psychology giving particular consideration to the Ethical Standards of Psychologists promulgated by the American Psychological Association.

(14) Establish standards of service and training and educational qualifications for rendering ethical psychological services in this state, including the formulation of standards for the issuance of licenses for areas of special competence.

(15) Formulate and enforce continuing education requirements for duly licensed psychologists to ensure the highest quality of professional services to the public.

(16) Deny renewal of a license, or renewal of a license that has lapsed for nonpayment of the renewal fee, unless the applicant completes, or provides documentation of completion within the previous 36 months of:

(a) A one-hour pain management education program approved by the board and developed based on recommendations of the Pain Management

Commission; or

(b) An equivalent pain management education program, as determined by the board.

(17) Assess costs associated with a disciplinary action to the person against whom the board takes the disciplinary action, as follows:

(a) For total costs of \$3,000 or less, the board may not assess any costs.

(b) For total costs greater than \$3,000 but not greater than \$6,000, the board may assess up to 50 percent of the total costs.

(c) For total costs greater than \$6,000, the board may assess up to 100 percent of the total costs.

(18) For the purpose of requesting a state or nationwide criminal records check under ORS 181A.195, require the fingerprints of a person who is:

(a) Applying for a license issued by the board;

(b) Applying for renewal of a license issued by the board; or

(c) Under investigation by the board.

(19) Prescribe, in consultation with the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists **and the State Board of Licensed Social Workers**, the duties of the Director of the Mental Health Regulatory Agency.

(20) Subject to the applicable provisions of ORS chapter 183, adopt reasonable rules to carry out the provisions of ORS 675.010 to 675.150.

**SECTION 11.** ORS 675.166 is amended to read:

675.166. The Mental Health Regulatory Agency shall provide administrative and regulatory oversight and centralized service for:

(1) The Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists, as provided in ORS 675.715 to 675.835; *[and]*

(2) The Oregon Board of Psychology, as provided in ORS 675.010 to 675.150[.]; **and**

**(3) The State Board of Licensed Social Workers, as provided in ORS 675.510 to 675.600.**

**SECTION 12.** ORS 675.178 is amended to read:



675.178. (1) The Mental Health Regulatory Agency is under the supervision and control of the Director of the Mental Health Regulatory Agency, who is responsible for the performance of the duties, functions and powers and for the organization of the agency.

(2) The regulated boards shall jointly appoint the director, who shall serve at the direction of the boards. If the boards cannot agree on a director, the Governor shall appoint a director from individuals suggested by each board, and the Governor's decision is final.

(3) The director is authorized to carry out the provisions of:

(a) ORS 675.010 to 675.150 as prescribed by the Oregon Board of Psychology; *[and]*

(b) ORS 675.715 to 675.835 as prescribed by the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists~~[,]~~; **and**

**(c) ORS 675.510 to 675.600 as prescribed by the State Board of Licensed Social Workers.**

(4) The director may appoint officers and hire employees as necessary to assist the director in fulfilling the duties, functions and powers conferred on the director by this section.

(5) The director may prescribe the duties and fix the compensation of officers appointed by the director and employees hired by the director.

(6) The director has all the powers necessary for the director to fulfill the director's duties as prescribed by the regulated boards under subsection (3) of this section.

**SECTION 13.** ORS 675.595 is amended to read:

675.595. In addition to the powers otherwise granted under ORS 675.510 to 675.600, the State Board of Licensed Social Workers *[shall have the following powers]* **has all the powers necessary or proper to:**

(1) *[To]* Determine the qualifications of applicants to practice social work in this state.

(2) *[To cause to have examinations prepared, conducted and graded]* **Prepare, conduct and grade examinations.**

1 (3) [To] Grant authorizations to practice regulated social work to quali-  
2 fied applicants upon their compliance with the provisions of ORS 675.510 to  
3 675.600 and the rules of the board.

4 (4) [To] Grant or deny renewal of authorizations to practice regulated  
5 social work.

6 (5) [To] Suspend or revoke authorizations to practice regulated social  
7 work.

8 (6) [To] Issue letters of reprimand.

9 (7) [To] Impose probationary periods with the authority to restrict the  
10 scope of practice of a regulated social worker.

11 (8) [To] Require that a regulated social worker:

12 (a) Practice under supervision;

13 (b) Obtain additional training in social work; or

14 (c) Undergo psychological, physical or psychiatric assessment, enter into  
15 and remain in any prescribed treatment program and disclose the results of  
16 the treatment program to the board.

17 (9) [To] Impose civil penalties as provided in ORS 675.540.

18 (10) [To] Restore authorizations to practice regulated social work that  
19 have been suspended, revoked or voided by nonpayment of the renewal fee.

20 (11) [To] Collect fees for application, examination and reexamination of  
21 applicants for initial authorizations to practice regulated social work as  
22 provided in ORS 675.571.

23 (12) [To] Collect fees for renewal of authorizations to practice regulated  
24 social work as provided in ORS 675.571.

25 (13) [To] Collect delinquent renewal fees as provided in ORS 675.571 (4).

26 (14) [To] Investigate alleged violations of ORS 675.510 to 675.600.

27 (15) [To] Issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses, take testimony,  
28 administer oaths or affirmations to witnesses, conduct hearings and require  
29 the production of relevant documents in all proceedings pertaining to the  
30 duties and powers of the board.

31 (16) [To] Enforce ORS 675.510 to 675.600 and exercise general supervision

over the practice of social work in this state.

(17) [To] Adopt a common seal.

(18) [To] Formulate and enforce a code of professional conduct for the practice of social work giving particular consideration to the code of ethics.

(19) [To] Formulate and enforce continuing education requirements for regulated social workers to ensure the highest quality of professional services to the public.

(20) [To] Take [such] **any** other disciplinary action [as] **that** the board in its discretion finds proper, including but not limited to assessment of the costs of the disciplinary process.

(21) For the purpose of requesting a state or nationwide criminal records check under ORS 181A.195, [to] require the fingerprints of a person who is:

(a) Applying for an authorization to practice regulated social work;

(b) Applying for renewal of an authorization to practice regulated social work; or

(c) Under investigation by the board.

**(22) Prescribe, in consultation with the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists and the Oregon Board of Psychology, the duties of the Director of the Mental Health Regulatory Agency.**

**SECTION 14.** ORS 675.597 is amended to read:

675.597. The State Board of Licensed Social Workers Account is established in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the State Board of Licensed Social Workers Account shall be credited to the account. Moneys in the account are continuously appropriated to the board for the administration and enforcement of ORS **675.172**, 675.510 to 675.600, 676.850 and 676.866.

**SECTION 15.** ORS 675.785 is amended to read:

675.785. The Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists has the following powers and duties:

(1) In accordance with the applicable provisions of ORS chapter 183, the

1 board shall adopt rules necessary for the administration of the laws the  
2 board is charged with administering.

3 (2) Subject to applicable provisions of the State Personnel Relations Law,  
4 the board may appoint, prescribe the duties and fix the compensation of  
5 employees of the board necessary to carry out the duties of the board.

6 (3)(a) The board may impose nonrefundable fees in an amount set by rule  
7 for the following:

8 (A) License application.

9 (B) First issuance of a license.

10 (C) Renewal of a license.

11 (D) Late filing of a license renewal.

12 (E) Renewal of registration as an associate.

13 (F) Examinations. Examination fees may not exceed the costs incurred in  
14 administering the particular examination.

15 (G) Limited permits.

16 (b) Fees established under this subsection are subject to prior approval  
17 of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services and must be within the  
18 budget authorized by the Legislative Assembly as that budget may be modi-  
19 fied by the Emergency Board.

20 (4) The Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists  
21 shall:

22 (a) Maintain a register of all current licensed professional counselors and  
23 marriage and family therapists.

24 (b) Annually publish a directory listing all current licensed professional  
25 counselors and marriage and family therapists. The directory must be avail-  
26 able to the public, and the board may collect a publication fee for the di-  
27 rectory.

28 (5) The board shall:

29 (a) Investigate alleged violations of the provisions of ORS 675.715 to  
30 675.835 or rules adopted under authority of the board.

31 (b) Establish procedures to review the complaints of clients of licensees

of the board. Upon receipt of a complaint under ORS 675.715 to 675.835 against a licensed or unlicensed person, the board shall conduct an investigation as described under ORS 676.165.

(6) The board shall report to the Legislative Assembly concerning the activities of the board during the preceding biennium.

(7) The board shall form standards committees to establish, examine and pass on the qualifications of applicants to practice professional counseling or marriage and family therapy in this state, including standards and requirements for continuing education and supervision, as appropriate. The standards committee for professional counselors shall be made up of the professional counselors on the board, the faculty member and the public member. The standards committee for marriage and family therapists shall be made up of the marriage and family members of the board, the faculty member and the public member.

(8) The board shall grant licenses to applicants who qualify to practice professional counseling or marriage and family therapy in this state upon compliance with ORS 675.715 to 675.835 and the rules of the board.

(9) The board may administer oaths, take depositions, defray legal expenses and issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents or written information necessary to carry out ORS 675.715 to 675.835.

(10) The board may adopt a seal to be affixed to all licenses.

(11) The board shall adopt a code of ethics for licensees. The board may use the ethical codes of professional counseling and marriage and family therapy associations as models for the code established by the board.

(12) The board may set academic and training standards necessary under ORS 675.715 to 675.835, including, but not limited to, the adoption of rules to establish semester hour equivalents for qualification for licensing where quarter hours are required under ORS 675.715 to 675.835.

(13) The board shall require the applicant for a professional counselor license or a marriage and family therapy license to receive a passing score

on an examination of competency in counseling or marriage and family therapy. The examination may be the examination given nationally to certify counselors, or in the case of marriage and family therapy, the examination approved by the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards.

(14) For the purpose of requesting a state or nationwide criminal records check under ORS 181A.195, the board may require the fingerprints of a person who is:

- (a) Applying for a license that is issued by the board;
- (b) Applying for renewal of a license that is issued by the board; or
- (c) Under investigation by the board.

(15) The board shall prescribe, in consultation with the Oregon Board of Psychology **and the State Board of Licensed Social Workers**, the duties of the Director of the Mental Health Regulatory Agency.

**SECTION 16. (1) On the operative date of this section, the tenure of any director or other administrator who provides administrative oversight for the State Board of Licensed Social Workers ceases.**

**(2) All of the duties, functions and powers of any directors or other administrators of the board are imposed upon, transferred to and vested in the Director of the Mental Health Regulatory Agency.**

**SECTION 17. (1) A director or other administrator of the State Board of Licensed Social Workers whose tenure ceases under section 16 of this 2026 Act shall:**

**(a) Deliver to the Director of the Mental Health Regulatory Agency all records and property, within the jurisdiction of a director or other administrator whose tenure ceases under section 16 of this 2026 Act, that related to the duties, functions and powers transferred by section 16 of this 2026 Act; and**

**(b) Transfer to the Director of the Mental Health Regulatory Agency those employees engaged primarily in the exercise of the duties, functions and powers transferred by section 16 of this 2026 Act.**

(2) The Director of the Mental Health Regulatory Agency shall take possession of the records and property, and shall take charge of the employees and employ them in the exercise of the duties, functions and powers transferred by section 16 of this 2026 Act, without reduction of compensation but subject to change or termination of employment or compensation as provided by law.

**SECTION 18.** (1) Nothing in the amendments to ORS 675.110, 675.166, 675.178, 675.595, 675.597 and 675.785 by sections 10 to 15 of this 2026 Act relieves a person of a liability, duty or obligation accruing under or with respect to the duties, functions and powers transferred by section 16 of this 2026 Act. The Director of the Mental Health Regulatory Agency may undertake the collection or enforcement of any liability, duty or obligation accruing under or with respect to the duties, functions and powers transferred by section 16 of this 2026 Act.

(2) The rights and obligations of a director or other administrator who provides administrative oversight for the State Board of Licensed Social Workers legally incurred under contracts, leases and business transactions executed, entered into or begun before the operative date specified in section 19 of this 2026 Act are transferred to the Director of the Mental Health Regulatory Agency. For the purpose of succession to these rights and obligations, the new director is not a new authority.

**SECTION 19.** (1) Sections 16 to 18 of this 2026 Act and the amendments to ORS 675.110, 675.166, 675.178, 675.595, 675.597 and 675.785 by sections 10 to 15 of this 2026 Act become operative on June 30, 2027.

(2) The Mental Health Regulatory Agency and the State Board of Licensed Social Workers may take any action before the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section that is necessary to enable the agency and the board to exercise, on and after the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section, all of the duties, functions and powers conferred on the agency and the board by sections 16 to

1 18 of this 2026 Act and the amendments to ORS 675.110, 675.166, 675.178,  
2 675.595, 675.597 and 675.785 by sections 10 to 15 of this 2026 Act.

3  
4 **CAPTIONS**

5  
6 **SECTION 20.** The unit captions used in this 2026 Act are provided  
7 only for the convenience of the reader and do not become part of the  
8 statutory law of this state or express any legislative intent in the  
9 enactment of this 2026 Act.

10  
11 **EFFECTIVE DATE**

12  
13 **SECTION 21.** This 2026 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the  
14 date on which the 2026 regular session of the Eighty-third Legislative  
15 Assembly adjourns sine die.

16 \_\_\_\_\_