

## HB 3912 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

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**Prepared By:** Brian Nieubuurt, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/18, 4/3

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires a person who uses the title "doctor" in connection with the person's health care practice to identify the health care profession in which the individual earned a doctoral degree on all material. Specifies size and color requirements for degree identification. Defines "material" as electronic or printed matter, social media, advertising, billboards, signs, professional notices and professional name badges.

*FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact*

*REVENUE: No revenue impact*

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Potential confusion caused by number of health professionals with doctorate degrees.
- Potential burden of compliance for some practitioners.

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

#### BACKGROUND:

In the healthcare industry, the term "Doctor" can refer to a wide range of professionals that have received the highest educational qualifications in their field. This can include physicians (Doctor of Medicine (MD) or a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO)); dentists Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) or Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD)); optometrists (Doctor of Optometry (OD)); psychologists (Doctor of Psychology (PsyD)); chiropractors (Doctor of Chiropractic (DC)); and naturopathic physicians (Doctor of Naturopathy (ND)). In recent years, some states, including California and Georgia, have passed legislation limiting the use of the title "doctor" to certain degrees.

House Bill 3912 requires a person who uses the title "doctor" in connection with the person's health care practice to identify the health care profession in which the individual earned a doctoral degree on all material.