

ANALYSIS

Mental Health Regulatory Agency and Board of Licensed Social Workers Licensing Database Progress Report

Analyst: Chelsey Herrmann-Nordness and MaryMichelle Sosne

Request: Acknowledge receipt of a report from the Mental Health Regulatory Agency and the Board of Licensed Social Workers on the progress toward acquiring a new licensing database.

Analysis: SB 5532 (2025) and HB 5018 (2025), the primary budget measures for the Mental Health Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and the Board of Licensed Social Workers (BLSW), included the following budget note:

The Mental Health Regulatory Agency, in consultation with the Board of Licensed Social Workers, are directed to return to the Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means during the 2026 session to report on the status of developing a new licensing database. The report should include the estimated costs of the project, proposed timelines, and plan for the respective agencies to fund the project through licensing revenue, including costs for ongoing operations and maintenance.

The Department of Administrative Services Statewide Procurement Services (DAS-SPS) plans to release an enterprise-wide request for proposal (RFP) that should result in one or more licensing system vendors to be placed on a statewide pricing agreement. Once completed, the RFP could be used by any agency, including MHRA and BLSW, to acquire a new licensing application. DAS-SPS estimates that awards of this RFP could occur by May 2026.

MHRA and BLSW have worked alongside DAS-SPS and plan on selecting a vendor once the RFP is complete. Once MHRA and BLSW have selected an eligible vendor, they will be able to determine the scope, schedule, and cost of implementation and if the agencies will be able to fully fund the acquisition, implementation, ongoing operations, and maintenance of the new licensing database system within current resources.

Recommendation: The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Joint Committee on Ways and Means acknowledge receipt of the report, with the instruction that the Mental Health Regulatory Agency and Board of Licensed Social Workers report to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means during the 2027 Legislative session with an update on the status of acquiring and implementing a new licensing database.

Mental Health Regulatory Agency Patton

Request: Report on the status of developing a new licensing database by the Mental Health Regulatory Agency.

Recommendation: Acknowledge receipt of the report.

Discussion: The following Budget Note was included in the Senate Bill 5532 (2025) budget report directing the Mental Health Regulatory Agency (MHRA) to develop and report on a project plan for a new licensing database:

Budget Note:

The Mental Health Regulatory Agency, in consultation with the Board of Licensed Social Workers, are directed to return to the Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means during the 2026 session to report on the status of developing a new licensing database. The report should include the estimated costs of the project, proposed timelines, and plan for the respective agencies to fund the project through licensing revenue, including costs for ongoing operations and maintenance.

Throughout 2025, MHRA and the Board of Licensed Social Workers (BLSW) conducted research on licensing system vendors and consulted with the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Enterprise Information Services (EIS). MHRA and BLSW were then informed that DAS EIS is pursuing an enterprise-level Request for Proposal (RFP), which would result in one or more licensing vendors becoming available to the State of Oregon under statewide price agreements.

MHRA is collaborating with DAS Procurement Services to be included in the statewide pricing and implementation of the licensing system procured with the RFP. The estimated costs of the project and the ongoing operations and maintenance cannot be determined until the RFP is complete, and MHRA's timeline will be subject to the project timeline of DAS Procurement Services. When costs can be determined, MHRA intends to use licensing revenue to fund the purchase and ongoing expenses of the licensing system.

Board of Licensed Social Workers Patton

Request: Report on the status of developing a new licensing database by the Board of Licensed Social Workers.

Recommendation: Acknowledge receipt of the report.

Discussion: The following Budget Note was included in the House Bill 5018 (2025) budget report directed the Board of Licensed Social Workers (BLSW) to develop and report on a project plan for a new licensing database:

Budget Note:

The Board of Licensed Social Workers, in consultation with the Mental Health Regulatory Agency, are directed to return to the Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means during the 2026 session to report on the status of developing a new licensing database. The report should include the estimated costs of the project, proposed timelines, and plan for the respective agencies to fund the project through licensing revenue, including costs for ongoing operations and maintenance.

Throughout 2025, BLSW and the Mental Health Regulatory Agency (MHRA) conducted research on licensing system vendors and consulted with the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Enterprise Information Services (EIS). BLSW and MHRA were then informed that DAS EIS is pursuing an enterprise-level Request for Proposal (RFP), which would result in one or more licensing system vendors becoming available to the State of Oregon under statewide price agreements.

BLSW is collaborating with DAS Procurement Services to be included in the statewide pricing and implementation of the licensing system procured with the RFP. The estimated costs of the project and the ongoing operations and maintenance cannot be determined until the RFP is complete, and BLSW's timeline will be subject to the project timeline of DAS Procurement Services. When costs can be determined, BLSW intends to use licensing revenue to fund the purchase and ongoing expenses of the licensing system.



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Mental Health Regulatory Agency

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Oregon.gov/MHRA

January 12, 2026

The Honorable Senator Kate Lieber, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE, H-178
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs,

Nature of the Request

The Mental Health Regulatory Agency (MHRA) respectfully requests, during the 2026 Legislative Session, to carry out the following budget note approved by the Joint Subcommittee on Education as part of Senate Bill 5532 (2025):

The Mental Health Regulatory Agency, in consultation with the Board of Licensed Social Workers, are directed to return to the Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means during the 2026 session to report on the status of developing a new licensing database. The report should include the estimated costs of the project, proposed timelines, and plan for the respective agencies to fund the project through licensing revenue, including costs for ongoing operations and maintenance.

Agency Action

A summary status update memo describing the status of agency action is attached. MHRA will be prepared to provide an additional written or oral report (or both) regarding the licensing database project, as requested by the Committee.

Action Requested

None.

Legislation Affected

None.

Sincerely,

Todd Younkin, MHRA Executive Director

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MHRA Budget Note (SB 5532) Summary Status Update

In the Summer through Fall of 2025, MHRA participated in a series of licensing system vendor demonstrations to assess new and emerging functionality available on the open market. MHRA continued engagement with other boards and the Department of Administrative Service (DAS) Enterprise Information Services to ensure enterprise-level best practices and expectations were maintained. Subsequently, MHRA joined an enterprise-wide Request for Proposal (RFP) effort to place one or more licensing system vendors on a statewide price agreement. MHRA used information obtained during the vendor demonstrations to provide input to the draft RFP document. The DAS Procurement Services has estimated that awards off this RFP could occur as soon as mid-May, 2026.

Due to the lack of an identified vendor, pricing and implementation timelines are unknown. If appropriately detailed information is available with sufficient time for inclusion, MHRA anticipates requesting additional budget authority for a new licensing system in a policy option package in the 2027-2029 Agency Request Budget. If appropriately detailed information is not available in time, then MHRA anticipates using the E-Board process post 2027 session to request the additional budget authority.

MHRA intends to fund the new system from licensing revenue. MHRA will use all available information, to include fund balances, projected cash flows, and the results of the RFP process to make a prudent purchasing decision which best balances costs and positive impacts to long-term efficiencies and customer service. MHRA will adjust licensing fees as appropriate to accommodate this purchase.



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January 9, 2026

The Honorable Senator Kate Lieber, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE, H-178
Salem OR 97301

Nature of Request

The Board of Licensed Social Workers (BLSW) requests to report on the 2025 Legislative Budget Note on House Bill 5018-A:

The Board of Licensed Social Workers, in consultation with the Mental Health Regulatory Agency, are directed to return to the Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means during the 2026 session to report on the status of developing a new licensing database. The report should include the estimated costs of the project, proposed timelines, and plan for the respective agencies to fund the project through licensing revenue, including costs for ongoing operations and maintenance.

Agency Action

A summary status update memo describing the status of agency action is attached. BLSW will be prepared to provide an additional written or oral report (or both) regarding the licensing database project, as requested by the Committee.

Action Requested

None

Legislation Affected

None

Sincerely,

Raymond Miller
Executive Director
Oregon BLSW



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

State Board of Licensed Social Workers

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January 9, 2026

Board of Licensed Social Workers (BLSW) Budget Note Status Summary Memo

In 2025, BLSW interacted with several licensing system vendors. The goal was to determine what solutions exist in the marketplace and of those solutions, which vendors were viable for BLSW customers. BLSW also engaged with the other State of Oregon Agencies using licensing systems as well as the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Enterprise Information Services (DAS EIS) for possible solutions.

DAS EIS informed BLSW that they had the intent to initiate an enterprise-level Request for Proposal (RFP) process which would result in one or more licensing system vendors being available to State of Oregon Agencies under statewide price agreements.

BLSW collaborated with DAS EIS to share our feedback on licensing system requirements and share data gathered while interacting with other licensing system vendors. It is BLSW's intent to leverage the DAS EIS RFP Process to collaborate on an enterprise-level licensing system using a statewide price agreement. It is my understanding that DAS Procurement Services may award as early as May 2026.

BLSW's timeline is expect to mirror DAS Procurement Services timeline. BLSW anticipates requesting a one-time expenditure increase to purchase a licensing system from BLSW funds in the 2027 – 2029 biennium.