

SB 1547 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

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Meeting Dates: 2/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure authorizes the Oregon Board of Psychology (OBOP) to issue a license to “behavioral health and wellness practitioners,” prohibits non-licensed individuals from practicing under this title, and clarifies when communication between licensed behavioral health and wellness practitioners and their clients is protected from civil or criminal court proceedings. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

Detailed Summary:

Licensing

- Establishes the scope of practice of licensed behavioral health and wellness practitioners, including the provision of behavioral health promotion, prevention, and brief intervention services.
- Authorizes OBOP to license behavioral health and wellness practitioners who have completed required education, clinical hours, training, and assessments, and paid applicable licensure fees.
- Requires licensed behavioral health and wellness practitioners to practice under qualified supervision and adhere to standardized rules of practice.
- Defines renewal and relicensing requirements.
- Permits OBOP to issue sanctions on licensed behavioral health and wellness practitioners.
- Becomes operative January 1, 2027.

Practitioner-Client Privilege

- Allows communication between licensed behavioral health and wellness practitioners and their clients to be examined in civil or criminal court proceedings by exceptions in the measure.
- Establishes mandatory reporting requirements.
- Becomes operative January 1, 2027.

Fiscal impact: Minimal fiscal impact.

Revenue impact: No revenue impact.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

- 1 The amendment modifies language defining eligible educational programs for licensure.

BACKGROUND:

In 2024, [House Bill 4151](#) directed a System of Care Advisory Council (SOCAC) subcommittee to identify state-issued professional authorization options for existing and emerging behavioral health professions and to determine the structure and supports needed to sustain the youth behavioral health workforce. The subcommittee identified the need to establish a bachelor's level youth and family behavioral health licensure, regulated by the Mental Health Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and OBOP. Similar credentialing processes have been created to license bachelor's level behavioral health professionals in other states, including [Washington](#), [Utah](#), [Wyoming](#), and [Nevada](#).