



Legislative Fiscal Office  
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**Bill Title:** Relating to behavioral health care providers; prescribing an effective date.

**Government Unit(s) Affected:** Information Technology, Board of Licensed Social Workers, Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists, Board of Psychology, Mental Health Regulatory Agency, Oregon Health Authority

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:** Costs related to the measure are indeterminate but anticipated to be minimal - see explanatory analysis.

#### Measure Description

The measure requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to adopt a process for credentialing behavioral health providers and to select an existing electronic credentialing system for use by behavioral health providers and coordinated care organizations (CCOs) in credentialing behavioral health providers. CCOs must use the credentialing system and may not require the behavioral health provider to comply with other credentialing procedures. The measure also requires OHA to minimize unnecessary administrative burden for behavioral health providers serving medical assistance recipients, which includes seeking suggestions from behavioral health providers and any necessary approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. OHA is to report to the Governor and the committees of the Legislative Assembly related to behavioral health each biennium on this work.

The measure also modifies requirements related to supervision of behavioral health care providers.

#### Fiscal Analysis

There is an indeterminate but anticipated to be minimal impact as a result of this measure.

#### Oregon Health Authority

There is an indeterminate but potentially minimal fiscal impact for OHA, assuming that the agency already has a credentialing system that will be modified to fit the requirements of this bill. Should the requirement that OHA "select an existing electronic credentialing system" require the agency to procure and implement a new system or substantially configure a system already in place but not currently used for this purpose, then this may require additional work.

OHA's assumption is that they will be contracting with an existing electronic credentialing provider for credentialing of behavioral health providers, and that CCOs will be paying for use of that provider's system.

The information technology (IT) component, which requires selection of an existing electronic credentialing system, may require the Oregon Health Authority to comply with the state's IT investment oversight process. The estimated fiscal impact of this component is therefore preliminary and subject to change when the agency begins this process. The process requirements include the following steps: (1) analysis of business requirements; (2) business case development; (3) establishing a project management team or other professional staff resources; and (4) developing foundational project management plans and updated cost estimates. Depending

on various cost or risk factors, including (but not limited to) the scope and complexity of the IT contract(s) that may be required, the Oregon Health Authority may also be required to contract for independent quality management services in compliance with ORS 276A.223.

OHA is also required to minimize unnecessary burden for behavioral health providers. OHA has reported no fiscal impact related to this work so it is not clear what the extent of this work will be.

**Other entities**

There is no fiscal impact for the Mental Health Regulatory Agency (Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists and Board of Psychology), or the Board of Licensed Social Workers.

**Relevant Dates**

The measure takes effect on the 91st day after sine die.

The electronic credentialing system and associated rulemaking is to be complete by June 30, 2027, and CCOs must use the system by July 1, 2027.