

HB 4083 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health

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Meeting Dates: 2/3, 2/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure takes specified actions to reduce administrative burden, including expanding flexibility in credentialing and supervision, for specified behavioral health providers.

Detailed Summary:

Requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to adopt a uniform credentialing process and centralized credentialing application portal for organizational providers by June 30, 2027. Prohibits coordinated care organizations (CCOs) from requiring an organizational provider from complying with credentialing procedures other than the uniform process established by OHA. Requires OHA to take specified steps to minimize unnecessary administrative burden for behavioral health providers serving medical assistance recipients and requires OHA to report biennially to the Governor and Legislative Assembly on efforts. Requires the State Board of Licensed Social Workers (SBLSW) and Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists to adopt rules to allow behavioral health provider types other than those licensed by the Boards to provide supervision to individuals seeking authorization to practice. Moves SBLSW under the administrative and regulatory umbrella of the Mental Health Regulatory Agency beginning June 30, 2027. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Governor's Behavioral Health Talent Council
- Rulemaking process to establish specifics of cross-license supervision
- Currently credentialing timelines
- Potential to help streamline background check requirements associated with credentialing process
- Concerns of cross-license supervision of social workers

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Modifies the obligation of OHA to establish a centralized credentialing portal to selecting an existing electronic credentialing system. Specifies that CCOs must be using the electronic credentialing system by July 1, 2027. Narrows permitted cross-license supervision and removes provisions placing SBLSW under the administrative and regulatory umbrella of the Mental Health Regulatory Agency.

Fiscal impact: *Fiscal impact issued*

Revenue impact: *No revenue impact*

BACKGROUND:

A [2025 study](#) by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) found that 88 percent of Oregon counties fall short of having at least one mental health provider per 1,000 residents. At the same time, organizations like Mental Health America rank Oregon at, or near, the bottom of states in regards to mental health and substance use prevalence. In 2025, Governor Kotek established the 22-member Behavioral Health Talent Council to expand upon the recommendations contained in the HECC study, focusing on four overarching goals: addressing the worker shortage identified by the HECC report, preventing the loss of workers at high risk of turnover, increasing the diversity and cultural competency of the state's behavioral health workforce, and improving the recruitment and retention of providers to serve Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members.

House Bill 4083 implements recommendations from the Behavioral Health Talent Council around reducing administrative burden for behavioral health providers.

PRELIMINARY