

SB 1547 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Isadore

House Committee On Behavioral Health

Action Date: 02/19/26

Action: Do Pass the A-Eng bill.

Vote: 8-0-0-0

Yeas: 8 - Edwards, Harbick, Isadore, Javadi, Mannix, Nosse, Pham H, Valderrama

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/19

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

Detailed Summary:

Licensing

- Establishes the scope of practice for 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
- Licensing provisions become operative on January 1, 2027

Practitioner-Client Privilege

- Privileges communication between licensed behavioral health and wellness practitioners and their clients, except in instances as defined in the measure
- Establishes mandatory reporting requirements for licensed behavioral health and wellness practitioners
- Practitioner-client provisions become operative on January 1, 2027

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Youth behavioral health service demand versus supply and access in Oregon
- Proposed limitations on the new license
- Distinction from the qualified mental health associate certification, including additional settings where new licensees can practice
- Types of providers permitted to provide supervision
- Training hour requirements
- Other states following the licensure pathway

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

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In 2024, [House Bill 4151](#) directed a System of Care Advisory Council subcommittee to identify state-issued professional authorization options for existing and emerging behavioral health professions and 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 and OBOP. Similar credentialing processes have been created to license bachelor's level behavioral health professionals in other states, including [Nevada](#), [Utah](#), [Washington](#), and [Wyoming](#).