

**2009 Legislative Update**  
**Oregon Board of Psychologist Examiners**  
Reported by Debra Orman McHugh, Executive Director  
BPE Meeting, September 12, 2008

The 2009 Legislative Session is likely to be challenging as the House health Committee, chaired by Rep. Greenlick, is pursuing a reform agenda in regards to health licensing boards. In addition, the Oregon State Bar, Administrative Law Section, will be proposing two or more bills again to limit the Board's authority. Finally, the Governor's office is consulting with the health board directors and is making proposals as well.

**The House Health Committee is proposing:**

- a) Restructure boards so that public members are 50% minus one. For OBPE that would be four professional members and three public members.
- b) Board members serve at the pleasure of the Governor
- c) Four year terms for board members
- d) Create criteria for impaired licensee discipline and monitoring programs.

**The Oregon State Bar is proposing to:**

- a) Eliminate contested case hearing cost recovery for hearings provisions for all health boards (OBPE does not have this provision).
- b) Require Notice and contested case proceedings for competency evaluations.

**The Governor's office is proposing:**

- a) All board members serve at the pleasure of the Governor
- b) Two public members minimum for all health boards
- c) Board members must be Oregon residents and board must be broadly representative
- d) Statutory language that protection of the public is the primary mission of all health boards
- e) Criminal background check fingerprint authority for all health boards, for all licensing and relicensing
- f) Executive Directors hired by boards with approval of the Governor's office, and serve at the pleasure of the board and the Governor
- g) Quarterly standardized reports to the board on licensing and regulation, with random audits by the Dept of Human Services to verify information
- h) Diversion/monitoring programs should be run by a third-party to remove some of the board's legal liability, with clear criteria
- i) Mandatory reporting of self and colleague ethics violations

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