

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	7 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Cowan, Gelser, Gilliam, Kotek, Maurer, Olson, Tomei
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Andy Smith, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/11, 5/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires school employees to complete yearly training on the prevention and identification of child abuse and on the obligations of school employees to report child abuse. Requires schools to make this training available to school parents. Requires the Department of Human Services to make diligent efforts to notify persons who make reports of abuse about the outcome of the investigation if the department was provided with information on how to contact the reporting individual. Applies to the 2007-2008 school year. Declares an emergency and takes effect upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Cost to schools and school districts to provide training
- Lack of existing training for teachers and school personnel
- Concerns about confidentiality and best of interests of child

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Requires department to inform persons making reports of child abuse with information about whether contact with the child was made, whether department determined that abuse occurred and whether services will be provided. Stipulates that department is not required to report information if disclosure is not permitted under ORS 419B.035.

BACKGROUND: Even though school employees are mandatory child abuse reporters, their employers (school districts) are not required to train employees in the prevention and identification of child abuse. Oregon's child abuse laws require certain professionals to report child abuse and allow anyone to file a report of child abuse to local law enforcement or the Department of Human Services. These laws do not require either to report back to the person filing the abuse complaint on the outcome of any investigation concerning the abuse allegation.