

House Bill 3517

Sponsored by Representatives C EDWARDS, D EDWARDS; Representatives BARKER, CLEM, COWAN, HUNT, RILEY, ROBLAN

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Provides that action against public body or officer, employee or agent of public body based on child abuse is not subject to two-year statute of limitation of Oregon Tort Claims Act and must be commenced within time provided for actions against private persons.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to child abuse; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 30.275.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 30.275 is amended to read:

5 30.275. (1) No action arising from any act or omission of a public body or an officer, employee
6 or agent of a public body within the scope of ORS 30.260 to 30.300 shall be maintained unless notice
7 of claim is given as required by this section.

8 (2) Notice of claim shall be given within the following applicable period of time, not including
9 the period, not exceeding 90 days, during which the person injured is unable to give the notice be-
10 cause of the injury or because of minority, incompetency or other incapacity:

11 (a) For wrongful death, within one year after the alleged loss or injury.

12 (b) For all other claims, within 180 days after the alleged loss or injury.

13 (3) Notice of claim required by this section is satisfied by:

14 (a) Formal notice of claim as provided in subsections (4) and (5) of this section;

15 (b) Actual notice of claim as provided in subsection (6) of this section;

16 (c) Commencement of an action on the claim by or on behalf of the claimant within the appli-
17 cable period of time provided in subsection (2) of this section; or

18 (d) Payment of all or any part of the claim by or on behalf of the public body at any time.

19 (4) Formal notice of claim is a written communication from a claimant or representative of a
20 claimant containing:

21 (a) A statement that a claim for damages is or will be asserted against the public body or an
22 officer, employee or agent of the public body;

23 (b) A description of the time, place and circumstances giving rise to the claim, so far as known
24 to the claimant; and

25 (c) The name of the claimant and the mailing address to which correspondence concerning the
26 claim may be sent.

27 (5) Formal notice of claim shall be given by mail or personal delivery:

28 (a) If the claim is against the state or an officer, employee or agent thereof, to the office of the
29 Director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services.

30 (b) If the claim is against a local public body or an officer, employee or agent thereof, to the

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 public body at its principal administrative office, to any member of the governing body of the public
 2 body, or to an attorney designated by the governing body as its general counsel.

3 (6) Actual notice of claim is any communication by which any individual to whom notice may
 4 be given as provided in subsection (5) of this section or any person responsible for administering tort
 5 claims on behalf of the public body acquires actual knowledge of the time, place and circumstances
 6 giving rise to the claim, where the communication is such that a reasonable person would conclude
 7 that a particular person intends to assert a claim against the public body or an officer, employee
 8 or agent of the public body. A person responsible for administering tort claims on behalf of a public
 9 body is a person who, acting within the scope of the person's responsibility, as an officer, employee
 10 or agent of a public body or as an employee or agent of an insurance carrier insuring the public
 11 body for risks within the scope of ORS 30.260 to 30.300, engages in investigation, negotiation, ad-
 12 justment or defense of claims within the scope of ORS 30.260 to 30.300, or in furnishing or accepting
 13 forms for claimants to provide claim information, or in supervising any of those activities.

14 (7) In an action arising from any act or omission of a public body or an officer, employee or
 15 agent of a public body within the scope of ORS 30.260 to 30.300, the plaintiff has the burden of
 16 proving that notice of claim was given as required by this section.

17 (8) The requirement that a notice of claim be given under subsections (1) to (7) of this section
 18 does not apply if:

19 (a)(A) The claimant was under the age of 18 years when the acts or omissions giving rise to a
 20 claim occurred;

21 (B) The claim is against the Department of Human Services or the Oregon Youth Authority; and

22 (C) The claimant was in the custody of the Department of Human Services pursuant to an order
 23 of a juvenile court under ORS 419B.150, 419B.185, 419B.337 or 419B.527, or was in the custody of
 24 the Oregon Youth Authority under the provisions of ORS 419C.478, 420.011 or 420A.040, when the
 25 acts or omissions giving rise to a claim occurred.

26 (b) The claim is against a private, nonprofit organization that provides public transportation
 27 services described under ORS 30.260 (4)(f).

28 (c) **The claim is based on child abuse, as defined in ORS 12.117.**

29 (9) Except as provided in **subsection (10) of this section and** ORS 12.120, 12.135 and 659A.875,
 30 but notwithstanding any other provision of ORS chapter 12 or other statute providing a limitation
 31 on the commencement of an action, an action arising from any act or omission of a public body or
 32 an officer, employee or agent of a public body within the scope of ORS 30.260 to 30.300 shall be
 33 commenced within two years after the alleged loss or injury.

34 **(10) An action arising from an act or omission of a public body or an officer, employee**
 35 **or agent of a public body within the scope of ORS 30.260 to 30.300 must be commenced within**
 36 **the time provided by ORS 12.117 if the act or omission constitutes child abuse as defined in**
 37 **ORS 12.117.**

38 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 30.275 by section 1 of this 2007 Act apply to all**
 39 **causes of action, whether arising before, on or after the effective date of this 2007 Act. The**
 40 **amendments to ORS 30.275 by section 1 of this 2007 Act revive any cause of action barred**
 41 **by the operation of ORS 30.275 as in effect immediately before the effective date of this 2007**
 42 **Act.**