

REVENUE: No revenue impact  
FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

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Action: Do Pass  
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0  
Yeas: Bonamici, Boquist, Dingfelder, Whitsett, Prozanski  
Nays: 0  
Exc.: 0  
Prepared By: Bill Taylor, Counsel  
Meeting Dates: 5/20

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires all health care providers, not just a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner, evaluating a suspicious injury to a child for possible child abuse to make photographs, clinical notes, diagnostic and testing results available to the county designated medical professional responsible for conducting child abuse investigations. Requires that applications for grants to support a regional child abuse assessment center comply with Department of Justice rules. Allows Department of Justice to provide compensation for medical examinations connected with a child abuse investigation.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Funding issues
- Reimbursement for unsubstantiated allegations

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** In 2004, 46,524 child abuse or neglect reports were investigated by the Department of Human Services (DHS). Of those reports 7,307 were declared “founded”, which means there was reasonable cause for authorities to believe that abuse or neglect occurred. In 2005, 18 Oregon children died from abuse or neglect by a parent or caregiver. One of them was Karly Sheehan. The 2007 Legislative Assembly enacted ORS 419B.023 and 419B.024, collectively known as “Karly’s Law”, in an effort to prevent similar events in the future. “Karly’s Law” requires any person who observes that a child has suffered suspicious physical injury while investigating an allegation of abuse must immediately photograph the injuries. County child abuse multidisciplinary teams (consisting of law enforcement, DHS representatives, prosecutors, school officials and others) identify a designated medical professional who is trained and available to conduct medical assessments in cases of suspicious physical injury. When a suspicious physical injury is observed in the course of an investigation a medical assessment must be conducted by a designated medical professional within 48 hours. Medical assessments by specially trained professionals find abuse that might be missed by other professionals. Assessments and photographs are used to support findings and prosecutions of abuse.