

**REVENUE:** Revenue statement issued

**FISCAL:** Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

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**Action:** Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Revenue by prior reference

**Vote:** 8 - 0 - 1

**Yeas:** Boone, Cowan, Dembrow, Freeman, Huffman, Maurer, VanOrman, Tomei

**Nays:** 0

**Exc.:** Olson

**Prepared By:** Keely West, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 2/23, 3/11

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Establishes a tax credit for physicians, physician's assistants or nurse practitioners who agree to perform the medical assessments required by Karly's Law. Sets a maximum for the annual amount of the credit and the number of individuals able to claim the credit statewide. Designates Department of Justice as agency to establish policies and procedures for eligibility certification of doctors.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Doctor training
- Lack of doctor access
- Increase in child abuse case investigations
- Operation of multidisciplinary teams

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Designates Department of Justice as agency to establish policies and procedures for eligibility certification of doctors.

**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 (MDT's), 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.

Proponents identified concerns relating to the cost of training and possible costs of court time required to provide the medical exams required by statute. MDT's and regional assessment centers are unable to maintain full time staff devoted to exams. HB 2450 A provides a tax credit as an incentive for local medical professionals to commit to perform a specific number of exams each year and to receive the training necessary to do so. The intention of the credit is to limit the impact on assessment centers; provide a tool for the MDT's and improve prevention by increasing recognition of abuse.

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***This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.***