

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 9 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Boone, Cowan, Dembrow, Freeman, Huffman, Maurer, Olson, VanOrman, Tomei
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Keely West, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 5/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) make records compiled under child abuse reporting statutes available to the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission for investigations of complaints pertaining to licensing violations for incidents involving any child or student grade 12 or below. Requires records released by DHS to the Commission be kept confidential. Declares emergency; effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: After a series of articles in *The Oregonian* about educator misconduct, an interim workgroup was formed to address related issues. Child abuse reports are needed by the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission two to three times each year and according to the Commission may be critical to decision-making processes. The Department of Human Services (DHS) does not have clear statutory authority to release the reports to the Commission. Senate Bill 123A provides the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission access to DHS child abuse reports when complaints against licensed educators are involved.