

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bonamici, Boquist, Dingfelder, Whitsett, Prozanski
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Bill Taylor, Counsel
Meeting Dates:	4/6, 4/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Adds audiologists, speech language pathologists, psychologists, or providers of adult foster care or their employees to the list of those who must report elderly abuse. Exempts from reporting information about abuse if a psychiatrist or psychologist receives the information from a patient as part of the patient privilege. Adds osteopathic physicians, physician assistants, naturopathetic physician, podiatric physician, surgeon, nurse practitioner, nurse's aide, physical, speech or occupational therapist, audiologist, speech language pathologist, home health aide or employee of an in-home health service to the list of those who must report child abuse.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need to report in order to protect vulnerable people

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Adds audiologist and speech language pathologist to the list of those professions that must report elderly abuse. Adds audiologist, physical, speech or occupational therapist, and speech language pathologist to the list of those professions that must report child abuse.

BACKGROUND: Currently, any public or private official having reasonable cause to believe that any person 65 years of age or older or a person under the age of 18 with whom the official comes in contact, while acting in his or her official capacity, had been abused must report the abuse to the Department of Human Services (DHS) or a law enforcement agency within the county where the abuse took place. "Public or private official" is defined to include physicians, chiropractors, licensed nurses and nurse's aids, employees of DHS, peace officers, clergy and firefighters among others. Public or private officials have a similar duty to report child abuse.