

**A-Engrossed**  
**House Bill 2441**

Ordered by the House March 19  
Including House Amendments dated March 19

Sponsored by Representative GELSER; Representatives BARKER, CAMERON, GARRETT, KAHL, OLSON, STIEGLER

**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.

*[Provides that confession is inadmissible against defendant unless there is some other proof crime has been committed.]*

*[Creates exception for sex crimes against vulnerable victims when confession is trustworthy and victim is incompetent to testify.]*

**Provides that confession alone is sufficient to warrant conviction of defendant if certain conditions are met. Requires state to file notice of intent to rely on confession alone. Directs court to conduct hearing before trial and enter order on notice filed by state.**

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

Relating to confessions; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 136.425.

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

**SECTION 1.** ORS 136.425 is amended to read:

136.425. (1) A confession or admission of a defendant, whether in the course of judicial proceedings or otherwise, cannot be given in evidence against the defendant when it was made under the influence of fear produced by threats[; *nor is*].

**(2) Except as provided in section 2 of this 2009 Act,** a confession [*only*] **alone is not** sufficient to warrant the conviction of the defendant without some other proof that the crime has been committed.

[(2)] **(3)** Evidence of a defendant's conduct in relation to a declaration or act of another, in the presence and within the observation of the defendant, cannot be given when the defendant's conduct occurred while the defendant was in the custody of a peace officer unless the defendant's conduct affirmatively indicated the belief of the defendant in the truth of the matter stated or implied in the declaration or act of the other person.

**SECTION 2.** (1) **A confession alone is sufficient to warrant the conviction of the defendant without some other proof that the crime has been committed if:**

**(a) The state files notice in accordance with subsection (3) of this section;**

**(b) The defendant is charged with a crime listed in ORS 181.594;**

**(c) The victim of the crime is a vulnerable person;**

**(d) The victim is incompetent to testify under ORS 40.310; and**

**(e) The court finds that there is sufficient evidence to establish the trustworthiness of the confession.**

**(2) In making the determination described in subsection (1)(e) of this section, the court shall consider the following factors, in addition to other factors the court considers impor-**

**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 **tant:**

2 (a) Whether there is evidence demonstrating the truthfulness of portions of the con-  
3 fession;

4 (b) Whether the defendant had the opportunity to commit the crime;

5 (c) The method of interrogation used to solicit the confession; and

6 (d) Whether the defendant is a vulnerable person.

7 (3) The state shall file notice of the intention to rely on this section no later than 15 days  
8 before trial, unless the court finds good cause to allow the filing at a later date.

9 (4) When the state files the notice described in subsection (3) of this section, the court  
10 shall conduct a hearing prior to trial. After the hearing, the court shall enter an order that  
11 indicates whether the confession alone is sufficient to warrant the conviction of the defend-  
12 ant without some other proof that the crime has been committed.

13 (5) As used in this section:

14 (a) "Activities of daily living" includes dressing, eating, toileting, bathing, exercising ap-  
15 propriate personal hygiene practices and moving from place to place.

16 (b) "Vulnerable person" means:

17 (A) A person under 18 years of age;

18 (B) A person 65 years of age or older;

19 (C) A person who meets the medical criteria for the receipt of services from a commu-  
20 nity program or facility as those terms are defined in ORS 430.735;

21 (D) A person with a developmental disability as that term is defined in ORS 40.460  
22 (18a)(d); or

23 (E) A person who, as the result of a diagnosed medical condition, requires assistance in  
24 two or more activities of daily living.

25 **SECTION 3.** Section 2 of this 2009 Act and the amendments to ORS 136.425 by section 1  
26 of this 2009 Act apply to persons charged with a crime that is alleged to have been committed  
27 on or after the effective date of this 2009 Act.