

76th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY – 2011 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee on Human Services

**** CORRECTED ****
MEASURE: HB 2325 A
CARRIER: Rep. Gilliam
Rep. Tomei

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Rescind the Subsequent Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote:	7 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Frederick, Greenlick, Harker, Parrish, Weidner, Gilliam, Tomei
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Thompson
Prepared By:	Jennifer Kellar, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Modifies elder abuse investigation procedures where suspicious injury exists. Creates and specifies membership and responsibilities of Elder Abuse Task Force. Repeals Elder Abuse Task Force February 29, 2012. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Elder abuse investigation accounts
- Need for following protocols
- Need for proactive action against abuse
- Discussion of amendment
- Selection of members, functions and timeline of Oregon Elder Abuse Task Force
- Timeline, functions and phasing of Department of Human Services' (DHS) Adult Safety and Protection Team
- Need for educating public on elder abuse
- Testimony urging proactive, definitive action by DHS and legislative assembly against elder abuse

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces original measure.

BACKGROUND: Oregon statistics show that many cases of abuse and neglect take place in the home. Though many seniors and people with disabilities decide to move into some kind of care facility (nursing home, adult foster home, assisted living facility, residential care facility or room and board facilities), most people who need assistance choose to live in their own or a family member's home. Either formal (paid) caregivers or informal (unpaid) caregivers can be an alleged perpetrator in cases of abuse and neglect.

Although criminal intentions sometimes motivate abusers, stress and depression may also be contributing factors; however, most abuse of elders and vulnerable individuals is due to domestic violence, not stress. Research shows that abusers and non-abusers report equal stress levels.

Responding to domestic violence as caregiver stress focuses on the needs of the caregiver, not the care receiver. Giving support to caregivers allows them additional power and control over vulnerable adults. This model blames the vulnerable adult for needing care. Stress is used as an excuse for abusive behavior. Indicators of domestic violence include that abuse does not stop and, while the caregiver gets support, the vulnerable adult's plight worsens. Caregivers who abuse due to stress are unique in that they seek help or that the abuse stops once brought to their attention. The abuse is often limited and not a pattern. Many caregivers respond to interventions such as respite, training or counseling.

4/25/2011 11:48:00 AM

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

Committee Services Form – 2011 Regular Session