

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass
<b>Vote:</b>	10 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Garrett, Hicks, Nolan, Olson, Schaufler, Tomei, Wand, Whisnant, Barker, Krieger
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Cheyenne Ross, Counsel
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	5/24, 6/1

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires district attorney of each county to organize sexual assault response team (SART). Requires each SART to adopt protocols addressing sexual assault response. Requires certain health care facilities to adopt policies for treatment of acute sexual assault patients. Requires certain health care facilities that perform forensic medical examinations of sexual assault patients to adopt guidelines developed by Sexual Assault Task Force and to employ or contract with sexual assault forensic examiner trained to satisfy certification requirements of Oregon Sex Assault Examiner/Sex Assault Nurse Examiner Certification Commission. Allows for adoption of protocols specific to child victims developed pursuant to ORS 418.747 and modifies requirements to accommodate facilities that conduct forensic exams and treat only child victims of sexual assault. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2011.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Improvement of prosecution, treatment, and collaboration to those ends, with standardized response according to best-practices
- Amendment to preclude unfunded mandate, using existing facilities and personnel and setting future compliance dates
- Organic development of existing SARTs due to unified purpose, but with varying standards and requirements
- Without SARTs, quality of prosecution, if any, and service to victim was a function of time and place of offense

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** Current law does not require that teams be organized specifically to respond to reports of sexual assault, nor that they adopt uniform standards, but such teams have evolved over time, due to the intimate nature of the trauma inflicted, the influence of best practices with regard to evidence collection in such cases, and the particular needs and vulnerabilities of survivors. The vast majority of Oregon's counties have already developed sexual assault response teams (SARTs) without being required to do so.

Senate Bill 557 A directs counties to develop SARTs, locates organizational responsibility with each district attorney's office, and provides for greater consistency statewide with regard to the adoption of more standardized investigation and treatment protocols.