

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bonamici, Dingfelder, Kruse, Whitsett, Prozanski
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Cheyenne Ross, Counsel
Meeting Dates:	4/7, 4/14, 4/19

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:

- Consistency and uniformity of training, investigations, and service provision
- Community-based, coalition of investigators, treatment providers and advocates
- Improved prosecution, better chance of conviction
- Improved treatment/care of victim
- Majority of counties in Oregon already have sex assault response teams
- How best to support/enable transition for remaining counties
- Use of existing employees and facilities to conserve resources

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Permits adoption of protocols specific to child victims developed pursuant to ORS 418.747. Modifies requirements to allow for facilities that conduct forensic exams and that treat only child victims of sexual assault.

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 SARTs without being required to do so. Senate Bill 557 A directs the remaining counties to do the same, locates organizational responsibility with each district attorney's office, and provides for greater consistency between them with regard to the adoption of more standardized investigation and treatment protocols.