

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Beyer, George, Morse, Steiner Hayward, Hass
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Victoria Cox, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Adds to list of public and private officials required to report child abuse employees of higher education institution and public or private organizations providing child-related services or activities to youth groups or centers, scout groups or camps, summer or day camps, survival camps or groups, centers or camps that are operated under the guidance, supervision or auspices of religious, public or private educational systems or community service organizations; and coach, assistant coach or trainer of amateur, semiprofessional or professional athlete, if compensated and if athlete is a child. Excludes community-based, nonprofit organizations whose primary purpose is to provide confidential, direct services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or human trafficking. Allows alternate designated person to receive report of suspected abuse if the designee is the abuser. Clarifies that duty to report rests with individual, not organization for which he or she works.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Department of Human Services training available
- Applicability to only those coaches compensated for coaching
- Remaining reference to volunteers who are mandatory reporters under other statutory provisions
- Difference between unsubstantiated allegations and false allegations of abuse

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Oregon state law requires workers in certain professions to make reports if they have reasonable cause to suspect abuse or neglect of a child. These people are called mandatory reporters. Mandatory reporters must report suspected abuse or neglect of a child regardless of whether or not the knowledge of the abuse was gained in the reporter's official capacity. ORS 419B.005 (3) – (4) identifies all professions that are mandatory reporters. Such professions include medical personnel; school and child care personnel; public employees including members of the Legislative Assembly; law enforcement personnel; and other professions such as licensed clinical social workers, attorneys, firefighters, and court appointed special advocates.

Oregon's mandatory reporter statute does not include employees of higher education institutions including community colleges, public and private universities. House Bill 4016-A adds employees of higher education institutions and public or private organizations providing child-related services or activities to youth to the list of mandatory reporters.