



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

## Department of Human Services

*Office of the Director*  
500 Summer Street NE  
Salem, OR 97351  
Voice: 503-945-5600  
Fax: 503-581-6193



DATE: February 7, 2014

TO: Chair Carolyn Tomei  
Human Services and Housing Committee

FROM: Fred Steele, MPH, JD  
Legal Services Developer  
State Unit on Aging  
Oregon Department of Human Services  
503-945-6325

SUBJECT: HB 4151

Chair Tomei and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 4151. I am writing to provide information to the committee regarding elder abuse investigations conducted by DHS as they relate to aspects of this bill.

Among other things, HB 4151 proposes to establish a statutory consistency of elder abuse investigatory timelines and reports. Currently, DHS provides expectations for completion of abuse investigations in administrative rule and policy, regardless of the setting (facility or community), but this bill would codify and make more consistent the current timelines found in statute, administrative rule, or DHS policy. In effect, this bill codifies current DHS practices requiring the completion of Elder Abuse investigations within a 120 day period from initiation of an abuse investigation to the final determination made by the facility specific licensing and regulatory office or, in the case of community reports, by the local investigative office.

It is important to note that that although HB 4151 codifies current expectations, because of staffing shortages, DHS and Area Agency on Aging adult protective services staff have historically struggled to meet those expectations. Currently, around 85% of community and 55% of facility investigations are completed to final determination within 120 days. These figures do not include a backlog of overdue community cases.

*"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"*