

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Judiciary

REVENUE: No revenue impact**FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued****SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Channa Newell, Counsel**Meeting Dates:** 3/2, 4/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Department of Justice to develop training curriculum on state privacy and confidentiality laws for state workers, community providers, and others who use confidential health care, human services, or housing information. Requires employees of public bodies who use confidential information to undergo privacy training at least once every two years. Requires Department of Justice to begin offering training by January 1, 2017. Requires Department of Human Services to convene work group to study and develop confidentiality release form. Specifies membership of work group. Requires Department of Justice to review statute and identify those that could be modified to better facilitate communication between public bodies and submit legislative proposals on identified modifications for 2017 legislative session. Declares emergency; effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Proposed (-1) amendments replaces measure. Directs Department of Human Services to convene work group to study confidentiality release forms for use by public bodies and community care organizations providing health care or human services. Specifies members. Requires report to Legislative Assembly in 2016 regular session. Requires Department of Justice to collaboratively review state laws and identify statutes that could be modified to facilitate communications between public bodies. Requires legislative proposals be submitted for 2017 legislative session.

BACKGROUND: Public bodies in Oregon include state government organizations, local governments, and special government bodies, such as school districts, educational service districts, community colleges and universities with governing boards, and public corporations. Public bodies have access to a wide variety of confidential information including health records and school records.

Senate Bill 670 requires the Department of Justice to work with the Department of Human Services, the Oregon Health Authority, the Housing and Community Services Department, the Employment Department, the Department of Revenue, and other public bodies to develop and implement a course for employees who have access to confidential information on the laws surrounding confidentiality and privacy. The course must be implemented by January 1, 2017 and is required to be attended by employees every two years. The measure also requires the development of a work group to develop a standardized confidentiality release form and a legislative proposal for the 2017 session to modify existing statute to facilitate better communication between public bodies.

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

Committee Services Form – 2015 Regular Session