

**PRELIMINARY** STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

**SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:** None

**Action:**

**Vote:**

**Yeas:**

**Nays:**

**Exc.:**

**Prepared By:** Cheyenne Ross, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 4/30

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Permits Department of Human Services (DHS) social workers to report suspected animal abuse or neglect as a function of their employment. Provides immunity for social workers acting in good faith. Applies retroactively.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

**BACKGROUND:** The Oregon Humane Society reports that there have been several instances where social workers, through the regular course of their work, have reported animal abuse to local agencies that enforce animal welfare laws.

House Bill 2694 allows, but does not require, DHS social workers to report animal abuse or neglect in their professional capacity without liability when they are acting in good faith.

*House Committee: 8 – 0 – 1*

*House Floor: 45 – 15 – 0*