

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, 5/7

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:

- Assistance provided law enforcement by the Oregon Humane Society
- Encouraging social workers to report suspected animal abuse
- Content of amendment

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

[*amendment pending*] Remove references to animal rescue entities.

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