

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/06/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Meeting Dates: 03/02, 04/06

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Burdick, Gelser, Kruse, Prozanski, Thatcher

Prepared By: Channa Newell, Counsel

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Adds home care workers and personal support workers to list of mandatory reporters of abuse. Extends criminal liability protection to those who make reports in good faith.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Personal support workers and home care workers provide services to vulnerable populations
- In good position to report abuse
- Many homecare workers already consider themselves mandatory reporters
- All persons are voluntary reporters of abuse
- Concerns with making legislative staff and volunteers mandatory reporters

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Removes legislative staff and legislative volunteers from mandatory reporter requirements. Adds home care workers, as defined in ORS 410.600, to list of mandatory reporters of abuse.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon statute specifically lists mandatory reporters of abuse. In 2013, House Bill 2205 included members of the Legislative Assembly in the list of mandatory reporters of elder abuse, effective January 1, 2015. Other mandatory reporters include physicians, dentists, school employees, health care professionals, members of the clergy, attorneys, and child care providers.

Senate Bill 622 A adds home care workers and personal support workers to the list of mandatory reporters of child abuse, elder abuse, abuse of developmentally disabled adults, adults receiving mental health treatments, and adults in long-term care facilities. It also extends criminal liability protection to individuals who make a report of abuse in good faith.