

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2015 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

Measure: HB 3391 - A

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

Prepared by: Kim To
Reviewed by: Doug Wilson, Daron Hill, Steve Bender
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Measure Description:

Allows Attorney General to file action on behalf of Department of Human Services employee for stalking citation or stalking protective order upon request and upon substantiation of facts and evidence of repeated and unwanted contact causing alarm or coercion to employee.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Human Services (DHS), Legislative Assembly, Oregon Department of Justice (ODJ), Department of Justice (DOJ)

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

House Bill 3391 authorizes the Attorney General to bring action in a circuit court for a citation or a stalking protective order on behalf of an employee of the Department of Human Services (DHS). In addition the bill establishes the eight-member Task Force on Safety for Child Welfare Employees charged with studying and developing recommendations for best practices and protocols for keeping child welfare employees and their families safe. The task force is required to report to an interim legislative committee by September 15, 2016. The task force also sunsets on December 31, 2016. The bill contains an emergency clause and is effective on passage.

Department of Human Services (DHS)

DHS is required to provide staff support and to the task force, and reimburse the six non-Legislative members of the task force for travel and other expenses incurred in their performance of task force duties out of funds appropriated to DHS for purposes of the task force. However, the bill does not appropriate additional funds to DHS, which would seem to suggest that expenses for reimbursement and staff support are intended to come from its Legislatively Approved Budget, which does not contemplate expenditures specifically for this purpose.

The bill allows the task force to meet at times and places specified by the call of the chair or a majority of the voting members. The fiscal impact of this bill on DHS is indeterminate depending on the scope of work undertaken by the task force, as well as the number of meetings, and geographic location of task force members. DHS projects the agency would need a potential \$58,308 Total Funds to reimburse task force members.

Legislative Assembly

Two members of the task force will be Legislative members who are entitled to per diem and travel reimbursement. Although the 2015-17 Legislative Branch budget contains funds allocated for interim committee and task force, if the work required by this task force, or if the cumulative enactment of other legislation with interim committees and task forces exceeds expenditure levels beyond those assumed in the 2015-17 budget, additional General Fund resources may be required.

Oregon Judicial Department (OJD), Department of Justice (DOJ)

This bill is anticipated to have minimal impact on OJD and DOJ.