

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/29/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 04/28, 04/29

Vote:

Yeas: 8 - Barker, Barton, Greenlick, Krieger, Lininger, Olson, Post, Williamson

Exc: 1 - Sprenger

Prepared By: Channa Newell, Counsel

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Adds home care workers and personal support workers to list of mandatory reporters of abuse. Specifies Legislative Assembly members are mandatory reporters of abuse of residents of long-term care facilities and abuse of adults with developmental disabilities or mental illness. Extends criminal liability protection to those who make reports in good faith.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Home care workers and personal support workers provide services to vulnerable populations
- Appropriate persons to report abuse of vulnerable adults and children
- Public officials required to report all abuse, but not specifically Legislative Assembly members
- All persons are voluntary reporters of abuse
- Need for consistency of abuse reporting requirements

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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 clarifies that legislative members are mandatory reporters of abuse of long-term care residents and adults with developmental disabilities. It also extends criminal liability protection to individuals who make a report of abuse in good faith.