

House Bill 3391

Sponsored by Representative EVANS; Representatives BARNHART, NATHANSON, NOSSE, STARK

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires 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.

Establishes Task Force on Safety for Child Welfare Employees. Requires report to Legislative Assembly and interim committees before September 15, 2016.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to safety for employees of the Department of Human Services; and declaring an emergency.

2 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

3 **SECTION 1. (1) The Attorney General shall bring an action in a circuit court for a cita-**
4 **tion under ORS 163.735 or a stalking protective order under ORS 30.866 or 163.744 on behalf**
5 **of an employee of the Department of Human Services who, because of being involved in the**
6 **conduct described in subsection (2) of this section, is the subject of repeated and unwanted**
7 **contact by another person that causes alarm or coercion to the employee. The Attorney**
8 **General's responsibility under this subsection is limited to circumstances in which an em-**
9 **ployee of the department submits a written request supported by sufficient facts and evi-**
10 **dence that the action will be successful and where the employee affirms the truth of the**
11 **facts set forth in the petition or complaint.**

12
13 **(2) Departmental employees on whose behalf the citation or stalking protective order**
14 **may be obtained under subsection (1) of this section include employees who:**

15 **(a) Conduct a child abuse investigation under ORS 419B.020;**

16 **(b) Make a determination that a child must be taken into protective custody under ORS**
17 **419B.150;**

18 **(c) Make a determination that a child should not be released to the child's parent or**
19 **other responsible person under ORS 419B.165 (2); and**

20 **(d) Are involved in developing a case plan or making a placement decision for a child in**
21 **the legal custody of the department.**

22 **SECTION 2. (1) The Task Force on Safety for Child Welfare Employees is established,**
23 **consisting of eight members appointed as follows:**

24 **(a) The President of the Senate shall appoint one member from among members of the**
25 **Senate.**

26 **(b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member from among**
27 **members of the House of Representatives.**

28 **(c) The Director of Human Services shall appoint two members to represent the De-**
29 **partment of Human Services.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (d) The Attorney General shall appoint one member to represent the Department of
2 Justice.

3 (e) The Governor shall appoint three members, two of whom shall be members of an
4 employee union representing employees of the Department of Human Services.

5 (2) The task force shall study best practices and protocols for keeping child welfare em-
6 ployees and their families safe from unwanted and harmful threats and conduct of third
7 parties, and shall study and make recommendations regarding the need and feasibility of
8 expanding the practices and protocols to employees in other offices or divisions within the
9 Department of Human Services.

10 (3) A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction
11 of business.

12 (4) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the members
13 of the task force.

14 (5) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.

15 (6) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-
16 ment to become immediately effective.

17 (7) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson
18 or of a majority of the members of the task force.

19 (8) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

20 (9) The task force shall:

21 (a) Submit a report no later than September 15, 2016, to the Legislative Assembly in the
22 manner provided by ORS 192.245, and may include recommendations for legislation in the
23 report.

24 (b) Submit a copy of the report to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly re-
25 lated to child welfare and stalking no later than September 15, 2016.

26 (10) The Department of Human Services shall provide staff support to the task force.

27 (11) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are not
28 entitled to compensation, but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary travel and other
29 expenses incurred by them in the performance of their official duties in the manner and
30 amounts provided for in ORS 292.495. Claims for expenses incurred in performing functions
31 of the task force shall be paid out of funds appropriated to the Department of Human Ser-
32 vices for purposes of the task force.

33 (12) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist
34 the task force in the performance of its duties and, to the extent permitted by laws relating
35 to confidentiality, to furnish such information and advice as the members of the task force
36 consider necessary to perform their duties.

37 SECTION 3. Section 2 of this 2015 Act is repealed on December 31, 2016.

38 SECTION 4. This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
39 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect
40 on its passage.