
MEMORANDUM

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To: Public Safety Subcommittee

From: Julie Neburka, Legislative Fiscal Office
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Date: February 22, 2016

Subject: SB 1571, relating to sexual assault forensic evidence kits

There is ongoing nationwide concern over untested sexual assault forensic evidence kits. Senate Bill 1571A requires the Oregon State Police to adopt rules for processing untested sexual assault forensic evidence kits, and to test these kits. The measure provides that by July 1, 2019, the Department will report to interim committees of the Legislative Assembly on its progress toward entering test results into CODIS. It exempts testing of anonymous kits.

The measure requires every law enforcement agency in Oregon to implement procedures regarding the collection, testing, retention and destruction of sexual assault forensic kits. These procedures must include that kits are to be obtained from medical facilities within seven days and provided to the Department of State Police for testing within 14 days. All kits, including anonymous kits, must be held for no fewer than 60 years. Additionally, each law enforcement agency must adopt procedures relating to providing information to victims concerning sexual assault forensic evidence kits, including that a single person be designated within an agency to receive all telephone inquiries regarding kits and to serve as a liaison to the Department of State Police.

Finally, SB 1571 creates a Task Force on the Testing of Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Kits. It sets forth who will serve as members of the task force, and defines its purpose: to examine the process for gathering and testing sexual assault forensic evidence kits and to pursue grants and funding to help offset the costs associated with this process. By December 1, 2018, the task force must submit a report with recommendations for legislation to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to judiciary. The Task Force sunsets on June 30, 2019.

The measure, the original staff measure summary, a preliminary Joint Committee on Ways and Means staff measure summary, fiscal impact statement, and measure history are available on the Oregon Legislative Information System (OLIS).

The –A6 amendment appropriates \$1,500,000 from the General Fund to the Oregon State Police’s Forensics Division, to add staff capacity to process additional sexual assault forensic

evidence kits. Funding will allow the hiring of nine positions (4.50 FTE) in the DNA and Biology sections of the Forensics Laboratories.

MOTION:

Move the dash A6 amendment into SB 1571.

LFO recommends the measure be moved to the full Joint Committee on Ways and Means, as amended.

MOTION:

Move SB 1571, as amended, to the full committee with a “do pass” recommendation.

Carriers:

Full: _____

House: _____

Senate: _____