

**PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Joint Committee On Ways and Means**

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:**

**Action:**

**Meeting Dates:**

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Directs Department of State Police to adopt rules on prioritization of testing untested sexual assault forensic evidence kits and to conduct testing of kits. Excludes anonymous kits. Directs Department to report to interim committees of the Legislative Assembly by January 15 of each year. Requires report to include progress made on untested sexual assault forensic evidence kits, include number of new kits received, include number of kits tested in previous year, and number of remaining untested kits in possession of Department. Directs Department to provide report to interim committees of the Legislative Assembly on progress of entering results into CODIS by July 1, 2019. Requires retention of untested anonymous kits for at least 60 years. Allows victim to contact law enforcement to reclassify kit. Directs every law enforcement agency in Oregon to adopt procedures regarding collection, testing, retention and destruction of sexual assault forensic evidence kits. Mandates procedures be in writing and available to public. Specifies minimum requirements of policy. Requires each law enforcement agency to adopt procedures for communicating information to victims concerning sexual assault forensic evidence kits. Prohibits contact between victim and forensic lab. Establishes Task Force on the Testing of Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Kits. Specifies membership and charge of Task Force. Declares emergency; effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

The -A6 amendment appropriates \$1,500,000 General Fund to the Oregon State Police - Forensic Division to add staff capacity to process additional sexual assault forensic evidence kits.

**BACKGROUND:**

There is ongoing nationwide concern over untested sexual assault forensic evidence kits. According to an inventory completed by the Oregon State Police in September of 2015, there are approximately 5,652 untested sexual assault forensic evidence kits in Oregon. Processing these kits may assist in identifying suspects and in prosecuting sex crimes.