

78th Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2016 Regular Session

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Fiscal: Budget report issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/11/16

Action: Do Pass With Amendments And Be Referred To Ways And Means By Prior Reference. (Printed A-Eng.)

Meeting Dates: 02/04, 02/11

Vote:

Yeas: 9 - Barker, Barton, Greenlick, Krieger, Lininger, Olson, Post, Sprenger, Vega Pederson

Prepared By: Channa Newell, Counsel

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$1 million from General Fund to establish tip line on school safety within Oregon State Police (OSP). Repeals existing tip line operated by Department of Justice. Requires tip line to receive reports through telephone, text messaging, or electronic formats. Defines threat to student safety as harassment, intimidation, bullying, cyberbullying, threats of violence against others, and threats of suicide or self-harm. Allows reports to come from students or community. Requires OSP to adopt rules on identification of caller; logging reports received on tip line; verifying authenticity of reports; and relaying reports to local law enforcement, behavioral health providers, and appropriate school district officials. Includes knowingly misreporting through tip line within crime of improper use of emergency communications system. Requires tip line be connected to other hotlines. Specifies tracking of referrals. Adds additional members to Task Force on School Safety for Department of Education and Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs. Extends sunset of Task Force to December 31, 2019. Declares emergency; effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Recommendations of Task Force on School Safety
- Findings from Colorado’s “Safe 2 Tell” tip line
- Need for incorporation of mental health providers and other hot lines
- Prevention of suicides, bullying, or violence

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Expands charge of tip line to include reports from members of community. Specifies tips are confidential, rather than anonymous. Requires rules be developed in consultation with state and local government behavioral health care providers. Updates rulemaking to include relaying information on threats to local service providers and school officials, in addition to local law enforcement. Requires tip line be connected to other hotlines. Specifies tracking of referrals. Adds additional members to Task Force on School Safety for Department of Education and Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs. Extends sunset of Task Force to December 31, 2019.

BACKGROUND:

In 2014, House Bill 4087 created the Oregon Task Force on School Safety. The Task Force included representatives from police, fire, school administration, teachers, and policy advisors on public safety. One of the charges to the Task Force was to, “Examine models for existing protocols for school safety and incident response and consider whether standardized statewide school safety and incident response protocols would be appropriate.” In response to that charge, the Task Force recommended establishing and funding a statewide tip line for reports of threats to student safety.

House Bill 4075A establishes that statewide tip line. The measure appropriates \$1 million for the implementation of the line. The line must receive telephone calls, text messages, or electronic messages through the internet. The OSP must develop rules on processing the calls, including how to protect the identity of the call while enabling return contact, logging reports,

****CORRECTED****

verifying authenticity of reports, and relaying that information to local law enforcement and school district officials. The measure repeals a tip line housed within the Department of Justice.