

SB 268 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

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Sub-Referral To: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Meeting Dates: 2/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Clarifies that Department of Human Services' investigation and certain notification requirements apply to reports of child abuse in school settings. Establishes requirements for investigations of alleged child abuse reports in nonfamily setting. Requires child abuse investigators in nonfamily settings to have specified relevant training. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

FISCAL: May Have Fiscal Impact, But No Statement Yet Issued

REVENUE: May Have Revenue Impact, But No Statement Yet Issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law provides the Department of Human Services (DHS) broad authority to pursue investigations of reports of alleged child abuse. Child abuse investigations in "nonfamily" settings can present unique issues for investigators, including the immediate concern for the subject child and for other children receiving services at a facility under investigation, as well as the best practices for interviewing children in various nonfamily settings.

Senate Bill 268 clarifies that DHS has the authority to investigate for reports of child abuse that occurred in a school setting or reports that were made by a school employee. The measure establishes requirements for child abuse investigators in nonfamily settings by requiring DHS to conduct investigations in a timely manner, and that investigators receive additional training specific to the unique circumstances of nonfamily settings. The measure also requires that parents of subject children have access to certain relevant information about their child, and that parents be timely informed about a nonfamily abuse investigation's progress.