

## **SB 268 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **Senate Committee On Human Services**

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**Prepared By:** Matt Doumit, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Senate Committee On Judiciary

**Meeting Dates:** 3/13, 4/12

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#### **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:**

- Provisions of measure, intent to clarify investigation authority of DHS
- Current process for investigating abuse in school settings and DHS oversight
- Issues regarding agency investigation roles and responsibility
- Potential fiscal impact of measure
- Impact of budget limitations on agencies ability to conduct investigations

#### **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 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.