

SB 244 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

Prepared By: Cassandra Soucy, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Clarifies Department of Human Services' notification requirements for suspected or substantiated child abuse involving child-caring agencies.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to investigate child-caring agencies when it becomes aware of any failures to comply with licensing criteria. DHS must then report alleged violations to state agencies or governing boards responsible for the child-caring agency, other government agencies that have contracts with the child-caring agency, and individuals relevant to the child in care's case. If the alleged violations are substantiated, DHS must update individuals relevant to the child in care's case, and involve its Director and internal licensing and child welfare personnel.

Senate Bill 244 A clarifies DHS' notification requirements in regards to abuse allegations. It requires DHS to inform the Oregon Youth Authority or the developmental disabilities office of alleged abuse if the child-caring agency serves children committed to the care of those state agencies. It adds case managers to the list of individuals receiving notice of alleged violations, and it adds a number of relevant individuals to the list of those receiving notice of substantiated abuse. Senate Bill 244 A also clarifies what actions DHS can take if an investigation reveals deficiencies impacting child health, safety, or welfare.