

SB 268 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

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Meeting Dates: 5/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Department of Human Services (DHS) to make certain records available to Disability Rights Oregon for reports of abuse of child with disability occurring in educational setting when records are compiled under specified mandatory reporting and health information disclosure statutes.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law provides the Department of Human Services (DHS) with broad authority to investigate alleged child abuse, and requires many corresponding records be kept confidential unless specifically exempted. Child abuse investigations in schools, especially for children with disabilities, can present unique issues for investigators. Special advocacy groups, like Disability Rights Oregon, can provide additional resources and expertise with such issues. Disability Rights Oregon is an independent, non-profit advocacy and investigative organization that specializes in issues of concern to disabled persons.

Senate Bill 268 A requires DHS to make records and reports compiled under certain statutes (ORS 419B.010 to ORS 419B.050) available to Disability Rights Oregon when the reports are related to abuse against a child with a disability in a school or educational setting.