

SB 942 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Prepared By: Laurie Byerly, Budget Analyst

Meeting Dates: 6/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Department of Human Services to make specified findings in child abuse investigation. Requires investigations be conducted in accordance with statute and result in findings until specified criteria are met. Operative January 1, 2018. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment to the measure removes a requirement that the Department of Human Services conduct exit interviews within 14 days of removing a child in substitute care from a placement.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law requires the Department of Human Services (DHS), or a law enforcement agency, to conduct child abuse investigations as soon as it receives a report. If a law enforcement agency finds there is reasonable cause to believe abuse has occurred, the agency is required to notify DHS. DHS is not required to make a particular finding at the conclusion of a child abuse investigation.

Senate Bill 942 requires DHS to conduct child abuse investigations as outlined in statutes relating to the Reporting of Child Abuse, and to make findings of "founded," "unfounded," or "cannot be determined" in those investigations until specified criteria are met. Such criteria include specified statewide metrics and program goals.