

SB 506 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

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Sub-Referral To: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Meeting Dates: 2/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Exempts public and private officials from child or elder abuse reporting requirements when official learns of abuse through information official reasonably believes is already known to law enforcement or Department of Human Services. 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 requires individuals in certain professions to report suspected child and elder abuse, including health care providers, school employees, attorneys, first responders, and many others. These individuals are collectively referred to as "mandatory reporters." Mandatory reporters must immediately report potential child or elder abuse to the Department of Human Services (DHS) or local law enforcement when they have reasonable cause to believe that abuse has occurred (Only persons in certain professions requiring privileged communications may be exempt). A mandatory reporter may be relieved from having to report suspected child abuse only when it would be redundant, such as when they learned of the abuse by way of an already-made report, or when they learned of the abuse in a proceeding arising from a previously-made report. There is no equivalent relief from mandatory reporting requirements for those who learn of *elder* abuse through previously-filed reports or proceedings.

Senate Bill 506 exempts mandatory reporters from reporting elder abuse when they reasonably believe the abuse has already been reported, or when they learn about the abuse in a proceeding and they reasonably believe the information is already known to the Department of Human Services or law enforcement. The measure also amends the child abuse reporting when the mandatory reporter reasonably believes the received information has already been reported.