

SB 101 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

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Sub-Referral To: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Meeting Dates: 2/6, 2/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands child abuse investigation authority to include interviews of subject children on private as well as public school grounds. Requires Department of Human Services to notify parent or guardian unless notification would compromise child's safety.

FISCAL: May Have Fiscal Impact, But No Statement Yet Issued

REVENUE: May Have Revenue Impact, But No Statement Yet Issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Child welfare in interview environment
- Nature, content of interviews at schools
- DHS, law enforcement best practices in child interviews
- Existing law, practices and effect of measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Permits DHS or law enforcement to withhold investigation details from school. Removes measure's provisions requiring DHS to inform parents or guardians of investigation or interview. Restricts school from notifying any person, except DHS or law enforcement, about investigation and restricts school from disclosing investigation information.

BACKGROUND:

Current Oregon law requires law enforcement and the Department of Human Services (DHS) to notify school administrators when child abuse investigations occur on public school premises unless the administrator is the subject of the investigation.

Senate Bill 101 makes it express that a child abuse investigation may occur on private as well as public school grounds, and that such investigations may involve interviews with subject children. Senate Bill 101 also requires DHS to notify parents or guardians of children that are the subject of the investigation, unless such notice would compromise the child's safety.