

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

79th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2017 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

Measure: HB 2401 - A

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Requires Department of Human Services and Department of Justice to provide trauma-informed training and curriculum to child welfare personnel.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Human Services (DHS)

Analysis:

House Bill 2401 appropriates an unspecified amount the Department of Human Services (DHS) to fund the development of a written set of guidelines for trauma-informed practices for child welfare employees investigating abuse. The bill requires DHS to provide trauma-informed training for employees responsible for licensing, certifying, or investigating child-caring agencies and foster homes. The bill specifies certain elements that must be included in this training. DHS is required to develop a set of written guidelines for trauma-informed practices for employees that may be shared with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA), and the Public Safety Standards and Training (PSST) Board, and other entities. The bill authorizes DHS, subject to availability of funds, to provide trauma-informed training to others in the child welfare system, including caseworkers, foster parents, parents, medical examiners, and educators.

Department of Human Services (DHS)

DHS reports that complying with all provisions of this bill, including developing a set of written guidelines for trauma-informed practices for employees that may be shared with the other entities, will have minimal impact on the agency; primarily because under current practice, DHS has already begun to apply a trauma-informed lens to child abuse investigations training. Therefore, the agency believes that minor revisions to its existing training will meet requirements to include this curriculum for employees responsible for licensing, certifying, or investigating child-caring agencies and foster homes.

Conditionally, the bill directs DHS to extend trauma-informed training and curriculum to others in the child welfare system, including caseworkers, foster parents, parents, medical examiners, and educators; the condition is funding availability. DHS hopes to meet this requirement by incorporating trauma-informed knowledge and information as part of the agency’s involvement in multidisciplinary work at the county and state level. The fiscal impact associated with training expansion is indeterminate.

The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) notes that this bill contains broad language related to “subject to availability of funds.” A specific funding source is not identified. While there may be a need to provide the program flexibility, LFO is concerned that this language may set unrealistic expectations for the program or for future funding requests.

Oregon Health Authority (OHA), the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA), and the Public Safety Standards and Training (PSST) Board

DHS is required to develop a set of written guidelines for trauma-informed practices for employees that may be shared with OHA, OYA, and PSST. Passage of this bill will have no fiscal impact on these agencies. DHS will collaborate and coordinate with these agencies as standard in the agency’s child welfare training process.