FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

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

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Date:	4-20-2017

Measure Description:

Modifies definition of "anonymous kit" in reference to testing of sexual assault forensic evidence kits.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon State Police (OSP)

Summary of Expenditure Impact: See Analysis

Analysis:

The measure modifies the definition of "anonymous kit" as being a sexual assault forensic evidence kit from a victim who has not participated with law enforcement in the creation of a report of the sexual assault. The measure also requires that law enforcement agencies policies include a requirement that when a victim that previously did not participate in the creation of a report, participates in creating a report at a later, the forensic evidence kit is reclassified as nonanonymous. By changing the classification, these kits would be submitted to Oregon State Police (OSP) for testing.

Currently, "anonymous kit" is defined by participation in prosecution of the perpetrator. OSP notes that it receives kits collected from victims that initially filed a report, but subsequently decided not to participate in the investigation, and is thus not able to test. Under this definition change, OSP assumes they would now be allowed to test these kits. OSP reports that it receives around 4-5 anonymous kits per month that are not able to be tested under the current definition.

The fiscal impact is indeterminate. The number of kits that may be submitted to OSP as a result of this definition change is unknown. The Department notes that the cost to test is approximately \$1,000 per kit. Depending on the demand for testing, the cumulative workload requirements added this session, or possible budget reductions, the legislature may need to review staffing requirements in the future should this legislation pass.