

Corrected

Carrier: Sen. Olsen

SB 268 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

Action Date: 04/17/17

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting subsequent referral to Judiciary be rescinded. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Gelser, Knopp, Monnes Anderson, Olsen

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Department of Human Services (DHS) to make certain records available to Disability Rights Oregon for reports of abuse of child with disability occurring in educational setting when records are compiled under specified mandatory reporting and health information disclosure statutes.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Clarifying DHS investigation authority
- Current investigation process for allegations of abuse in school settings and DHS oversight
- Agency investigation roles and responsibility
- Potential fiscal impact
- Impact of budget limitations on ability to conduct investigations

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law provides the Department of Human Services (DHS) with broad authority to investigate alleged child abuse, and requires many corresponding records be kept confidential unless specifically exempted. Child abuse investigations in schools, especially for children with disabilities, can present unique issues for investigators. Special advocacy groups, like Disability Rights Oregon, can provide additional resources and expertise with such issues. Disability Rights Oregon is an independent, non-profit advocacy and investigative organization that specializes in issues of concern to disabled persons.

Senate Bill 268-A requires DHS to make records and reports compiled under certain statutes (ORS 419B.010 to ORS 419B.050) available to Disability Rights Oregon when the reports are related to abuse against a child with a disability in a school or educational setting.