

SB 31 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

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Sub-Referral To: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Meeting Dates: 1/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows Oregon Public Guardian and Conservator (OPGC) to establish county, regional, and statewide high-risk teams to determine options for highly vulnerable adults who are at risk of harm or are currently experiencing harm. Permits county or regional high-risk teams to consist of OPGC, Department of Human Services (DHS), Oregon Health Authority (OHA), and representatives of local hospitals, crisis response teams, homeless services programs, veterans' services programs, area agencies on aging, and any other providers or services to persons with disabilities. Permits statewide high-risk team to consist of representatives of DHS including developmental disabilities programs and adult abuse prevention programs, OHA, Oregon State Hospital, Department of Veterans' Affairs, office of the Residential Facilities Ombudsman, and any other statewide entity in direct contact with highly vulnerable adults or provides services addressing serious safety concerns of highly vulnerable adults. Requires teams to develop written protocol establishing purpose, potential membership within each community and confidentiality procedures. Permits high-risk teams to use or disclose protected health information without obtaining authorization if use or disclosure is necessary for public health purposes.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Public Guardian and Conservator (OPGC) is responsible for supporting adults incapable of making decisions to ensure their own safety due to a disability and who do not have relatives or friends willing or able to assume guardianship or conservatorship. Senate Bill 31 allows the OPGC to establish county, regional, and statewide high-risk teams to discuss situations where highly vulnerable adults are at risk of harm or are currently experiencing harm, and to determine options for addressing safety risks, focusing on the least restrictive alternatives. Senate Bill 31 also requires each high-risk team to develop written protocols to establish the purpose of the team and potential membership within each community, and permits high-risk teams to use or disclose protected health information without obtaining authorization if use or disclosure is necessary for public health purposes.