

HB 2657 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By: Gillian Fischer, Counsel

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/29, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Justice (DOC) to administer a violence prevention funding program in consultation with the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force. Provides program directives and includes rule making authority. Operative date of January 2020.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- School aged youth most at risk of being sexually assaulted
- Culturally specific programs required by measure
- Currently only funding for four programs state wide
- Structure of measure compliments existing DOJ infrastructure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Makes technical changes.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon has one of the highest rates of domestic and sexual violence in the nation, with approximately 1 million women and girls affected in their lifetime (Oregon Women's Foundation Count Her In Report, 2016). At least one in six of all men in Oregon experience sexual violence. Prevention programs promote healthy relationships, teach bystander intervention skills, and promote change in social norms and the prevention of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and dating and interpersonal violence. In the Oregon Student Violence Report, 42% of students report believing there is not an atmosphere of trust and respect at school. Youth who experience dating or sexual violence have higher rates of suicidal thoughts and other health consequences such as anxiety and depression, difficulty concentrating and a loss of hope.

House Bill 2657 creates a funding program dedicated to comprehensive violence prevention education.