

SB 917 -4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/7, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits employers that care for children, youth, individuals with disabilities, or older adults, from interfering with employees' disclosures about same to regulatory agencies, law enforcement authorities, and others, as specified, and deems such interference an unlawful employment practice. Requires revocation or suspension of permission to operate and authorizes civil penalties for violations.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of measure
- Applicability of nondisclosure agreements when reporting suspected child abuse
- Privacy of information of protected individuals receiving care or services

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-4 Replaces measure. Prohibits employers that care for children, youth, individuals with disabilities, or older adults, from interfering with employees' or volunteers' good faith disclosures about abuse or mistreatment, violations of licensing or certification, criminal activity, violations of state or federal laws, or practices threatening health and safety, to regulatory agencies, law enforcement authorities, and others, as specified. Deems such interference an unlawful employment practice. Specifies actions constituting the interference with disclosures of information. Authorizes revocation or suspension of permission to operate and authorizes civil penalties for violations.

REVENUE: No revenue impact.

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact.

BACKGROUND:

Reports of abuse or mistreatment by a medical provider can be made to the Oregon Medical Board, and reports regarding long-term care providers can be made to the Long-Term Care Ombudsman. The Residential Facilities Ombudsman investigates complaints for individuals living in homes licensed or certified for Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities or Mental Health conditions. Reports of suspected child abuse are made to the Department of Human Services hotline.

Senate Bill 917 prohibits employers that provide care to children, youth, individuals with disabilities, or older adults, from interfering with disclosures of information about treatment to regulatory agencies, law enforcement authorities, and others, as specified, and deems such interference an unlawful employment practice. The measure requires the revocation or suspension of permission to operate a facility providing care and authorizes civil penalties for violations.