

SB 606 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 04/04/19

Action: Do pass with amendments. Refer to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng).

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Bentz, Fagan, Gelser, Linthicum, Manning Jr, Prozanski, Thatcher

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Gillian Fischer, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates a thirteen-member Domestic Violence Committee (Committee) within the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) and specifies membership composition. Provides that the Committee's primary responsibility is to coordinate response services between state agencies and non-state organizations. Directs the Committee to advise the Governor and Legislative Assembly regarding best practices for domestic violence responses. Directs the Committee to study criminal justice responses and prepare reports relating to current practices and resources available to agencies providing services to domestic violence victims. Provides that the Committee will make recommendations for improvements to current systems and practices and provide training to state agencies. Directs the Committee to develop a technical assistance plan for agencies to develop multidisciplinary approaches to addressing domestic violence, including identifying training requirements and training opportunities. Requires the Committee to publish reports on critical domestic violence issues and engage in community outreach and education regarding domestic violence. Directs the Committee to meet at least once a month.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Domestic and sexual violence are serious public health and safety issues in our state
- Rates of violence against women are among the highest in the nation
- Identify the specific barriers to reporting and to establish ways to improve victim experiences

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Domestic violence is a pattern of behavior in which one person in a relationship attempts to exert control over another. It can take many forms, including physical, sexual, emotional, or economic abuse. Abuse can include threatening, putting someone down, or making them afraid, even if there is no physical violence. Abuse often worsens over time. The Women's Foundation of Oregon reports that over a third of Oregon's women have experienced intimate partner violence. According to the Oregon Department of Human Services, domestic violence is a contributing factor in approximately one-third of all child welfare cases, and approximately 40 percent of abuse cases involving seniors or people with disabilities. Domestic violence accounts for one in four of all Oregon violent deaths. In 2017, 32 people died due to domestic violence. From 2003-2014, a total of 321 lives were lost. These deaths include women, men, and children, and occurred in 31 of 36 counties. Deaths include primary victims, children and family members of the victim, responding officers, colleagues, and bystanders.

Senate Bill 606 A creates a committee within the Criminal Justice Commission dedicated entirely to the study of domestic violence prevention and education.