

SB 804 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Noble

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

Action Date: 04/29/19

Action: Do Pass the A-Eng bill.

Vote: 8-0-1-0

Yeas: 8 - Helt, Keny-Guyer, Mitchell, Noble, Sanchez, Schouten, Williams, Zika

Exc: 1 - Meek

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 4/24, 4/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies requirement that Department of Human Services (DHS) notify law enforcement of report of suspected child abuse in county where report was received, to require notification in county where alleged abuse occurred, county where child resides, or county where reporter came into contact with child or alleged perpetrator. Requires law enforcement agencies to notify DHS of reports of suspected child abuse using the child abuse reporting hotline. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Statewide child abuse reporting hotline operational as of April 8, 2019
- Hotline location in Multnomah County
- Importance of screening reports of alleged abuse
- High wait times; goal to reduce wait times to two minutes or less
- Cooperation between agencies
- Practical effect of current law

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

When the Department of Human Services (DHS) or a law enforcement agency receives information about suspected child abuse, they are currently required to notify each other, in the county where the report was received. Senate Bill 804 A requires DHS to notify the law enforcement agency in the county where the abuse allegedly occurred, where the child resides, or where the reporter came into contact with the child or the alleged perpetrator, rather than in the county where the report was received. The measure also requires law enforcement agencies to notify DHS of reports of suspected child abuse using the child abuse reporting hotline.