

**SB 474 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110  
Implementation**

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**Prepared By:** Gillian Fischer, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 3/25, 4/1

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Provides that certain hearsay statements made by the victim of certain sex crimes that purport to narrate, describe, report or explain the crime are not inadmissible in evidence even though a declarant is available as a witness if the statement satisfies specified criteria. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Oregon law states that hearsay is not admissible except when certain criteria are met as specified by statute. Statements or records demonstrating circumstantial guarantees of trustworthiness may be admitted and considered as substantial evidence regardless of the availability of the declarant to testify at trial.

Senate Bill 474 expands those exceptions to include certain statements relating to sex crimes committed against the declarant victim.