

**HB 2155 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Rep. Sanchez

**House Committee On Human Services**

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**Action Date:** 03/17/21

**Action:** Do Pass.

**Vote:** 7-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 7 - Leif, Noble, Owens, Ruiz, Sanchez, Schouten, Williams

**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Iva Sokolovska, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/22, 3/17

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Clarifies the definition of public or private official relating to organizations providing child-related services and activities. Permits mandatory reporting exemption for qualified victim services providers.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Importance of safety and confidentiality for survivors, removing barriers to access services
- Clarification of existing law and inadvertent drafting error

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Oregon law requires any public or private official to contact the Department of Human Services (DHS) or law enforcement immediately if they reasonably suspect that a child they have come in contact with may have been abused. Individuals who are required to report are called “mandatory reporters” and include law enforcement, social workers, medical and other treatment providers, school personnel, child care providers, foster care providers, legal professionals, and clergy members.

Certain nonprofit organizations that serve survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and trafficking are exempt from mandatory reporting requirements because confidentiality enhances the success of their programs. However, when programs for domestic violence and sexual assault survivors are housed within non-profits whose primary purpose is to offer a broader range of services to a community, it is not clear whether the mandatory reporting exemption applies.

House Bill 2155 clarifies that the mandatory reporting exemption for stand alone domestic violence and sexual assault programs includes programs offered by larger organizations with a broader purpose.