

SB 106 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

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Meeting Dates: 3/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Department of Human Services to study disposition rates of child abuse investigations and report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2024.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Human Services Office of Child Protective Services (CPS) responds to child abuse reports. CPS-trained caseworkers across the state listen to reports of abuse, assess the situations, and prepare safety plans to assist children and families. CPS staff work closely with law enforcement agencies and other members of multidisciplinary teams in each county to assess child abuse reports (ORS 419B.005 to 419B.05D). The dispositional process begins with a determination by the investigating agency of the validity of a child abuse report. Every report is handled by a CPS-trained worker who will make an initial determination of whether a report meets the guidelines that require ODHS to conduct an assessment of the family. Those reports that are possible abuse are further analyzed to determine whether an immediate response is needed. After an assessment is completed, the information is reviewed to determine whether abuse occurred and whether the child is safe. If a child has been abused or neglected, CPS and law enforcement staff decide, with family help if possible, whether the child can be safely left at home. ODHS and law enforcement have the authority to remove a child from the home if they are in immediate danger of abuse. A court order also can authorize ODHS or law enforcement to place a child in protective custody.

Senate Bill 106 requires the Department of Human Services to study disposition rates of child abuse investigations and report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2024.