

**SB 1587 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Rep. Wallan

**House Committee On Judiciary**

---

**Action Date:** 02/29/24

**Action:** Do Pass the A-Eng bill.

**Vote:** 10-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 10 - Andersen, Bynum, Chaichi, Conrad, Kropf, Lewis, Reynolds, Tran, Wallan, Yunker

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Conner Egan, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/27, 2/29

---

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

This measure provides certain civil liability immunities for children’s advocacy centers, their employees, and designated agents.

Detailed Summary:

Provides that children’s advocacy centers and their employees or designated agents who are participating in good faith and have reasonable grounds for their participation in a child abuse assessment shall have immunity to certain civil liabilities regarding their participation in the assessment or participation in any judicial proceeding from the assessment. Maintains liability for damages resulting from an employee’s or designated agent’s gross negligence, reckless, wanton or intentional misconduct, abuse or neglect of the child who is the subject of the abuse assessment, medical malpractice, or discrimination on the basis of a protected class. Requires the children’s advocacy center to be in good standing, or actively working towards accreditation, by a national organization that provides accreditation based on recognized standards. Defines designated agents. Declares that children’s advocacy centers rely upon state funding and provide statutorily-mandated services. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Services provided by children's advocacy centers (CAC)
- CACs are statutorily mandated
- Frivolous lawsuits against CACs

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention Program, established in the Oregon Department of Justice, exists to maintain a coordinated multidisciplinary community-based system for responding to allegations of child abuse and ensuring the safety and health of children who are victims of child abuse. Children’s advocacy centers are a core feature of this system and are partially funded by grants administered by the Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention Program. Children’s advocacy centers perform medical assessments, forensic interviews, and other support services as part of their child abuse assessment.

ORS 418.780 requires that all children referred to a center for concerns of neglect or abuse have access to a skilled, competent, and medically sound medical assessment at a children's advocacy center. Only licensed physicians, physician assistants, or nurse practitioners are permitted to perform the medical assessment of a child at a children's advocacy center. ORS 418.782.

**SB 1587 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

Currently, five states have specific immunities for CACs, while 15 other states have civil immunities for CACs by participating in a child abuse investigation.