

Senate Bill 1579

Sponsored by Senators THATCHER, MANNING JR, Representative BOICE; Senator PROZANSKI, Representatives BUNCH, HARBICK, LEVY B, SCHAFER, SMITH G, YUNKER (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act increases the penalty for making a false report of child abuse. (Flesch Readability Score: 63.4).

Modifies the offense of making a false report of child abuse. Punishes a first offense by a maximum of six months' imprisonment, \$2,500 fine, or both. Punishes a second offense by a maximum of 364 days' imprisonment, \$6,250 fine, or both. Punishes a third or subsequent offense by a maximum of five years' imprisonment, \$125,000 fine, or both.

Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to false reports of child abuse; creating new provisions; amending ORS 419B.016; and prescribing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. ORS 419B.016 is amended to read:

419B.016. (1) **As used in this section, "child abuse" means "abuse" as defined in ORS 419B.005.**

[(1)] (2) A person commits the [offense] **crime** of making a false report of child abuse if, with the intent to influence a custody, parenting time, visitation or child support decision, the person:

(a) Makes a false report of child abuse to the Department of Human Services or a law enforcement agency, knowing that the report is false; or

(b) With the intent that a public or private official make a report of child abuse to the Department of Human Services or a law enforcement agency, makes a false report of child abuse to the public or private official, knowing that the report is false.

[(2) *Making a false report of child abuse is a Class A violation.*]

(3)(a) **Except as provided in paragraph (b) or (c) of this subsection, making a false report of child abuse is a Class B misdemeanor.**

(b) **Making a false report of child abuse is a Class A misdemeanor if the person has one prior conviction under this section at the time of the offense.**

(c) **Making a false report of child abuse is a Class C felony if the person has two or more prior convictions under this section at the time of the offense.**

SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 419B.016 by section 1 of this 2026 Act apply to:

(1) **False reports of child abuse made on or after the effective date of this 2026 Act.**

(2) **For purposes of ORS 419B.016 (3)(b) and (c), prior convictions occurring before, on or after the effective date of this 2026 Act.**

SECTION 3. This 2026 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2026 regular session of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

