

Senate Bill 1579

Sponsored by Senators THATCHER, MANNING JR, Representative BOICE; Senator PROZANSKI, Representatives BUNCH, HARBICK, LEVY B, SCHARF, 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.

