

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

---

<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
<b>Vote:</b>	7 - 1 - 1
<b>Yeas:</b>	Boone, Dembrow, Huffman, Maurer, Olson, VanOrman, Tomei
<b>Nays:</b>	Freeman
<b>Exc.:</b>	Cowan
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Keely West, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	4/20, 4/22

---

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Allows Department of Human Services (DHS) to contract with local providers of victim services for the location of staff members at DHS offices for the purpose of fostering a closer working relationship between child welfare and victim service providers. Provides a model for staff to provide case reviews, coordination and consultation, and make referrals to domestic violence services when child welfare cases are closed after an initial assessment.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Intersection of domestic violence and child welfare
- Special needs of domestic violence victims and their children
- Complementary service curve created by the model

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Makes language permissive rather than mandatory.

**BACKGROUND:** National statistics reflect a 30 to 60 percent overlap in child abuse and domestic violence, and statewide Department of Human Services' statistics show a 25 to 32 percent co-occurrence in the Oregon. Children's exposure to domestic violence is associated with negative physical and mental health outcomes, cognitive and developmental difficulties, and with academic, behavioral, social and emotional challenges. Domestic violence advocates provide comprehensive support. They assist child welfare caseworkers in developing case plans and work with parents to access resources for completion of the case plan. Domestic violence advocates provide information and assistance in negotiating the child welfare system as well as instituting safety planning and providing information about legal, counseling, housing, employment and child care resources.

Oregon's most recent federal review of DHS Child and Family Services identified several points where Oregon services failed to address the safety needs of children. After the review a Child Safety Workgroup was convened to make recommendations for improving Oregon's child welfare system. The service delivery model proposed by HB 3273 was one of its recommendations. The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges identify the placement of domestic violence advocates in child welfare offices as a best practice. Several counties in Oregon have participated successfully in federally funded pilot programs using this model.