FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Seventy-Sixth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2012 Regular Session Legislative Fiscal Office

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Measure Description:

Adds employee or volunteer of organization providing child-related services or activities, employee of higher education institution, coach, assistant coach or trainer of child athlete and individual who provides guidance, instruction or training in youth development activity to list of public and private officials required to report child abuse.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development, Department of Education, Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU), Oregon University System (OUS), Department of Human Services (DHS), Employment Department, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD)

Summary of Expenditure Impact: See Analysis

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

The measure adds employees of higher education institutions, employees of a public or private organization providing child-related services or activities, and compensated coaches or trainers of child athletes to the list of public and private officials required to report child abuse. The measure excludes community-based nonprofit organizations whose primary purpose is to provide services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or human trafficking. The measure clarifies that the liability for not reporting under the law lies with the individual and not with the institution or organization for which they work or volunteer.

There is a minimal fiscal impact to the Department of Education, school districts, Oregon Parks and Recreation, and the Employment Department to update policies, and to provide notices and training for employees in various child-related programs.

The Department of Human Services notes that while anyone can currently report child abuse, the number of reports of suspected child abuse resulting from the expansion of mandatory reporters is indeterminate and may affect the Department's workload.