

**SB 244 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Rep. Piluso

**House Committee On Human Services and Housing**

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**Action Date:** 05/18/17

**Action:** Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. (Printed B-Eng.)

**Vote:** 9-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 9 - Gorsek, Keny-Guyer, Meek, Nearman, Noble, Olson, Piluso, Sanchez, Stark

**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Clarifies Department of Human Services' notification requirements for suspected or substantiated child abuse involving child-caring agencies.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Notification of child-caring agencies abuse and license violations to DHS
- Redundancies in notifications to providers
- Definition of governmental entities

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Clarifies provision notifying Oregon Youth Authority, county juvenile departments or developmental disability services at DHS about report or suspected or founded abuses.

**BACKGROUND:**

Oregon law requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to investigate child-caring agencies when DHS becomes aware of any suspected or founded abuses, deficiencies, violations or failures to comply with licensing criteria. DHS is required to notify relevant state agencies or governing boards responsible for the child-caring agency, other government agencies that have contracts with the child-caring agency, or individuals involved in the child in care's case about the suspected or founded abuses or violations. If the alleged abuses or violations are founded, DHS may suspend the child-caring agency's license and impose corrective measures for the child-caring agency to implement. Additionally, DHS is required to update individuals regarding the abuse or violations founded.

Senate Bill 244 B clarifies DHS' notification requirements in regards to abuse allegations. The measure requires DHS to inform the Oregon Youth Authority, county juvenile departments, and the developmental disabilities office of alleged abuse, if the child-caring agency serves children committed to the care of those state agencies. The measure also expands notification requirements to include relevant DHS employees for notice of alleged abuse violation. Additionally, DHS is required to notify certain individuals involved with the child who is the subject of the abuse investigation if the allegations are substantiated. Senate Bill 244 B also clarifies what actions DHS can take if an investigation reveals deficiencies impacting child health, safety, or welfare.