

**SB 917 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Human Services**

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**Prepared By:** Jamie Hinsz, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 3/7, 4/4

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Prohibits employers that care for children, youth, individuals with disabilities, or older adults, from interfering with employees' disclosures about same to regulatory agencies, law enforcement authorities, and others, as specified, and deems such interference an unlawful employment practice. Requires revocation or suspension of permission to operate and authorizes civil penalties for violations.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-3 Clarifies disclosures to be "good faith" disclosures and does not include protected health information. Removes prospective employee as individual providing disclosure protected. Clarifies information in disclosure regarding treatment to mean abuse or mistreatment and expands information in disclosure to include violations of licensing or certification, criminal activity, violations of state or federal laws, or any practice that threatens the health and safety of individuals receiving care. Clarifies actions constituting the interference of of disclosures of information. Removes requirement of revocation or suspension of permission to operate entity caring for children, youth, individuals with disabilities, or older adults, and allows such revocation or suspension.

*REVENUE: No revenue impact.*

*FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.*

**BACKGROUND:**

Reports of abuse or mistreatment by a medical provider can be made to the Oregon Medical Board, and reports regarding long-term care providers can be made to the Long-Term Care Ombudsman. The Residential Facilities Ombudsman investigates complaints for individuals living in homes licensed or certified for Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities or Mental Health conditions. Reports of suspected child abuse are made to the Department of Human Services hotline.

Senate Bill 917 prohibits employers that provide care to children, youth, individuals with disabilities, or older adults, from interfering with disclosures of information about treatment to regulatory agencies, law enforcement authorities, and others, as specified, and deems such interference an unlawful employment practice. The measure requires the revocation or suspension of permission to operate a facility providing care and authorizes civil penalties for violations.