

**HB 2481 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Human Services and Housing**

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**Action Date:** 03/20/19

**Action:** Without recommendation as to passage and be referred to Judiciary.

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

**Yeas:** 9 - Helt, Keny-Guyer, Meek, Mitchell, Noble, Sanchez, Schouten, Williams, Zika

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** Revenue impact issued

**Prepared By:** Amie FenderSosa, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/20

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Clarifies "reports and records," for purposes of protecting information in child abuse investigations, as any material generated as a result of the investigation, including police reports, photographs, and audio/visual records. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- No discussion; referral to another committee

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

A certain amount of cooperation, communication, and exchange of information occurs between the Department of Human Services, law enforcement, and school personnel investigating suspected child abuse, depending on the circumstances. Given the sensitive nature of such allegations, there is also concern with the subject child's ongoing safety, the overall integrity of any investigation, and the need to protect the confidentiality of information. A number of provisions within Oregon's Juvenile Code, and statutes governing the conduct of school personnel, refer to "records" being disclosed or made available. House Bill 2481 clarifies the breadth of information that is contemplated when that term is used, by defining "reports and records" to include any products of a child abuse investigation, from written reports, documents, and still photographs, to audio and visual recordings.