

HB 2375 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Thatcher

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 04/29/19

Action: Do pass the A-Eng bill.

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Bentz, Fagan, Gelser, Linthicum, Manning Jr, Prozanski, Thatcher

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Gillian Fischer, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 4/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Adds a sexual assault nurse examiner or a representative of a hospital to a sexual assault response team in each county.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Strengthen assistance and support for sexual assault victims
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner qualifications and victim services
- Representation of medical provider conducting sexual assault exams on response team
- Elimination of rape kit backlog

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In Oregon, district attorneys of each county are required to organize a sexual assault response team (SART), which must meet quarterly, and have protocols in place to address sexual assault response. The SARTs must consist of a representative of a prosecution-based victim assistance program, a sexual assault forensic examiner, a representative of the county sheriff's office or local law enforcement, and a nonprofit agency that receives public funding and offers support services to victims of sexual assault. Currently, certain types of health care facilities are required to have policies for treating sexual assault patients that include performing forensic medical examinations or employing or contracting with a sexual assault forensic examiner who is certified by the Oregon Sex Assault Examiner Certification Commission. In 2011, the Legislative Assembly enacted Senate Bill 557 to standardize sexual assault investigation and treatment protocols across Oregon's 36 counties.

House Bill 2375-A modifies the membership of county sexual assault response teams in Oregon.