

HB 2227 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Prozanski

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 05/07/19

Action: Do pass.

Vote: 4-0-1-2

Yeas: 4 - Fagan, Gelser, Manning Jr, Prozanski

Exc: 1 - Thatcher

Abs: 2 - Bentz, Linthicum

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Gillian Fischer, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 5/2, 5/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Adds animal control officer to the definition of public or private official. Requires animal control officers to report or cause a report to be made if they have reasonable cause to believe that any child with whom the official has contact has suffered abuse or that any person with whom the official has contact has abused a child.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Not expanding the authority of animal control officers
- Statistics show an increased prevalence of child abuse in homes where there is animal abuse occurring
- Report of animal abuse does not itself trigger a mandatory report of child abuse
- Does not mandate reports of elder abuse

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Any public or private official must immediately report suspected child abuse when the official has reasonable cause to believe that a child with whom the official comes in contact has suffered abuse or that any person with whom the official comes in contact has abused a child. See ORS 419B.015.

House Bill 2227 identifies animal control officers as public officials, thereby extending to them the duty to report child abuse.