

HB 2155 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services

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Meeting Dates: 2/22, 3/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Clarifies the definition of public or private official relating to organizations providing child-related services and activities. Permits mandatory reporting exemption for qualified victim services providers.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of safety and confidentiality for survivors, removing barriers to access of services
- Clarification of existing law and technical inadvertent drafting error

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law requires any public or private official to contact the Department of Human Services (DHS) or law enforcement immediately if they reasonably suspect that a child they have come in contact with may have been abused.

Individuals who are required to report are called “mandatory reporters” and include law enforcement, social workers, medical and other treatment providers, school personnel, child care providers, foster care providers, legal professionals, and clergy members.

Certain Oregon non-profit organizations that serve survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and trafficking are exempt granted exemption from the mandatory child abuse reporting requirements law because confidentiality enhances the success of their programs for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking. However, when programs for domestic violence and sexual assault survivors victim services programs are housed within non-profits whose primary purpose is to offer a broader range of services to the community, it is not clear whether the mandatory reporting exemption applies to the domestic violence and sexual assault victim services programs.

House Bill 2155 modifies the child abuse mandatory reporting statute to clarify that the mandatory reporting exemption for stand alone domestic violence and sexual assault programs includes programs, which are housed in offered by larger organizations with a broader purpose, are provided with the same mandatory reporting exemption that applies to standalone domestic violence and sexual assault service providers.