

SB 566 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health

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Meeting Dates: 4/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Removes term “mentally defective” from statutes defining sexual offenses. Provides that a person is incapable of consenting to sexual act if the person is incapable of appraising the nature of the person’s conduct. Directs the trier of fact to consider certain criteria when determining whether the victim had the capability of appraising the nature of the victim's conduct. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

Senate Votes: Ayes, 29; Nays, 1--Heard.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 163.305 defines “mentally defective” as a person who suffers from a qualifying mental disorder that renders the person incapable of appraising the nature of the conduct of the person. Under Oregon criminal statutes relating to sexual offenses, a person is considered incapable of consenting to a sexual act if the person is mentally defective as defined.

Senate Bill 566 A removes the term mentally defective and instead states that a person is incapable of consent if the person is incapable of appraising the nature of their conduct and provides specific factors for the trier of fact to consider in evaluating a person's ability to appraise the nature of their conduct.