

SB 556 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services

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Meeting Dates: 5/12, 5/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires *in-person* site inspections of specified care facilities. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Senate Committee On Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery: Do pass with amendments unanimously.

Senate:

Motion to refer to Committee on Ways and Means failed. Ayes, 11; Nays, 17--Beyer, Burdick, Dembrow, Gelser, Golden, Gorsek, Jama, Johnson, Lieber, Manning Jr, Patterson, President Courtney, Prozanski, Riley, Steiner Hayward, Taylor, Wagner; Excused, 2--Frederick, Heard.

Passed. Ayes, 27; Nays, 1--Girod; Excused, 2--Frederick, Heard

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person contact diminished or was severely restricted, between individuals in all manner of congregate settings and their providers, case workers, licensing and other professionals, and friends and family members. The Residential Facilities Care Ombudsman (RFO), responsible for advocating on behalf of more than 10,000 Oregonians who reside in 2,600 homes, estimates about half of all concerns that are raised about a person's care, come from the circle of people in direct physical contact with them. The RFO, the Department of Human Services (DHS), and others, report alarming declines in the number of formal complaints and reports of suspected abuse or neglect across the state in the absence of in-person interactions with individuals in congregate settings.

Senate Bill 556 A specifies that site inspections of certain care facilities must be conducted *in person*.