

SB 556 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Ruiz

House Committee On Human Services

Action Date: 05/19/21

Action: Do Pass the A-Eng bill.

Vote: 5-0-2-0

Yeas: 5 - Leif, Owens, Ruiz, Schouten, Williams

Exc: 2 - Noble, Sanchez

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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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.

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*.