

SB 231 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

Prepared By: Iva Sokolovska, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/15, 2/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Human Services to develop and maintain a centralized child abuse reporting system which must include an abuse reporting hotline and a website. Modifies processes for reporting of child abuse to include reporting via the centralized child abuse reporting system.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of the development and implementation of the Oregon Child Abuse Hotline (ORCAH)
- Reports not received by system and administrative re-work to process reports received by other departments
- Mandatory reporters' access to electronically reporting
- Data collection and accessibility considerations
- Other states implementing electronic reporting
- Cross-reporting to law enforcement and Department of Human Services

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Child Abuse Hotline (ORCAH), which launched in April 2019, is a telephone-only reporting system and does not allow for electronic reporting of child abuse. Oregon law requires each person or entity making a report of child abuse to make an oral report by telephone or otherwise to the local office of the Department of Human Services, to the designee of the department, or to a law enforcement agency within the county where the person making the report is located at the time of the contact (ORS 419B.015).

Senate Bill 231 would establish a centralized child abuse reporting system which will be used to report child abuse via hotline orally or via website electronically.