

HB 3076 -1, -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

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Meeting Dates: 2/22, 3/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Extends period for parent to anonymously leave infant in physical custody at authorized facility from 30 days to 60 days from infant's date of birth. Requires Department of Human Services to display explanatory signage at authorized facilities. Appropriates unspecified General Fund moneys to department to design and post signage.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Characteristics of safe surrender law
- Comparison to other states
- Public awareness of safe surrender protections
- Potential benefits of infant safety devices
- Method of determining age of infant
- Interaction with investigations of child abuse

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Allows parent to leave infant in newborn safety device at authorized facility instead of with employee of facility. Prescribes requirements for authorized facility to install newborn safety device.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

-2 Removes requirement for Department of Human Services to install signage at facilities. Replaces with requirement for department to design signs to be posted at authorized facilities. Removes General Fund appropriation.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law authorizes a parent to lawfully and anonymously leave their infant child at an authorized facility, such as a hospital, doctor's office, or law enforcement or fire station, with the intention of permanently surrendering parental custody. This practice is known as "safe surrender," which Oregon enacted in 2001 with Senate Bill 199. Current law provides that a parent who intends to safely surrender their infant at a facility must do so within 30 days of the infant's date of birth. From the point at which the child is transferred, the Department of Human Services (DHS) becomes responsible for the child's well-being due to the child being considered abandoned.

House Bill 3076 extends the period of safe surrender from 30 days to 60 days and requires DHS to display signage at all authorized facilities that explains safe surrender provisions to the public.