

SB 745 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 2/2, 3/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires juvenile departments to screen youth taken into custody to determine if the youth is a victim of sex trafficking and to ensure appropriate resources, including access to a special advocate, be provided to any youth whose screening indicates they may be a victim of sex trafficking. Directs the Department of Justice to develop and provide training about sex trafficking to state agencies and county juvenile departments that work with youths. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Screening currently required in dependency but not delinquency.
- Need for accurate data to provide services.
- Opportunities for outside groups to provide services.

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Replaces the measure. Provides that sex trafficking screening must be conducted at point of intake if youth is not taken into custody. States that a county juvenile department must only refer a youth to appropriate services, rather than ensure that a youth receive services. Directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) and Oregon Youth Authority (OYA), in consultation with the Oregon Department of Justice's (DOJ) Trafficking Intervention Advisory Committee, to maintain and make available a regularly updated list of referral resources to county juvenile departments. Directs the Department of Justice, in consultation with the DOJ's Trafficking Intervention Advisory Committee, to develop two separate trainings, one on the use of a standardized sex trafficking screening tool and one on sex trafficking more broadly. Requires that DOJ provide training on screening tool to county juvenile departments and requires that county juvenile departments ensure all staff who work directly with youth complete the training. Requires DOJ to provide general training to county juvenile departments and state agencies that work with youth at no cost, and requires that state agencies and county juvenile departments ensure that all staff who work with youth receive the training. Provides dates for when each obligation must be met. Requires DOJ's Trafficking Intervention Advisory Committee to report certain data to the Legislative Assembly as specified no later than December 31, 2025. Adds adjudicated youth to all references to youth in the measure. Defines relevant terms. Repeals provisions related to dates for certain directives on January 2, 2026. Provides operative dates for provisions in measure. Allows DOJ, DOJ's Trafficking Intervention Advisory Committee, DHS, OYA, and county juvenile departments to take action prior to operative dates. Takes effect on 91st day following sine die.

BACKGROUND:

Public and private officials, including those working in the juvenile justice system, have a duty to report to the Department of Human Services if the official suspects that a youth has suffered abuse. However, when a youth is taken into custody pursuant to the Juvenile Delinquency Code, there is no specific requirement that a juvenile department assess whether the youth may be a victim of sex trafficking. In 2020, the Washington state legislature enacted a law requiring that specific services be offered to youth who are reasonably believed to be victims of sex trafficking.

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Senate Bill 745 would require that, as soon as practicable after a youth is taken into custody, the juvenile department ensure the youth is screened to determine whether the youth is a victim of sex trafficking. The bill would require the Department of Justice to develop and provide training about sex trafficking to all state agencies and county juvenile departments that work with youth, and in turn, that all state agencies and juvenile departments ensure that their staff are appropriately trained. Senate Bill 745 would further require that, if a screening indicates that a youth is a victim of sex trafficking, the screener immediately make a report to the Department of Human Services, and the juvenile department ensure that appropriate resources, including access to a special advocate, be provided to the youth.