

HB 3076 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Carrier: Rep. Cate

Action Date: 03/15/23

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 9-0-1-0

Yeas: 9 - Andersen, Cramer, Elmer, Hartman, Hieb, Nelson, Neron, Nguyen H, Reynolds

Exc: 1 - Scharf

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/22, 3/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Extends period for parent to anonymously leave infant in physical custody of person at authorized facility from 30 days to 60 days from infant's date of birth. Requires authorized facilities to post and maintain informational signage visible to the public regarding anonymous surrender. Requires Department of Human Services to design signage to be posted at authorized facilities.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Characteristics of safe surrender law
- Comparison to other states' laws
- 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:

Removes requirement for Department of Human Services to install signage at facilities. Requires department to design signs to be posted at authorized facilities. Requires authorized facilities to display signage. Removes General Fund appropriation.

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