HB 4140 A   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Kropf

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Action Date:	02/28/24
Action:	Do Pass the A-Eng bill.
House Vote	
Yeas:	13 - Breese-Iverson, Evans, Gomberg, Helfrich, Holvey, Lewis, Mannix, McLain, Owens, Pham K, Sanchez, Smith G, Valderrama
Senate Vote	
Yeas:	10 - Anderson, Campos, Dembrow, Findley, Frederick, Gelser Blouin, Girod, Knopp, Sollman, Steiner
Exc:	1 - Hansell
Fiscal:	Fiscal impact issued
Revenue:	No revenue impact
Prepared By:	John Borden, Budget Analyst
Meeting Dates:	2/22, 2/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Department of Justice (DOJ) to include discrete amounts in its budget request for the next biennium that are necessary for funding the projected costs of state support for children's advocacy centers, the Survivor Housing Funds Grant program, its successor program, and the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund. Allows the amounts to include a maximum of 10 percent for DOJ's administrative costs. Directs children's advocacy centers to submit reports to the DOJ in even numbered years for projected costs of operation for the next biennium, along with estimates of funding from all other sources. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:
- operative date
- Fiscal impact

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC) may also be referred to as Child Abuse Intervention Centers. CAC are 501(c)(3) non-profit entities and receive a portion of their funding from the state. State funding for CACs include appropriation of General Fund, allocations from the Criminal Fine Accounts, and Federal Funds (e.g., Victims of Crime Act). The Department of Justice's 2023-25 legislatively approved budget for CAC's totals $21.1 million, of which comprised of $7.5 million General Fund, $6.7 million Other Funds, and $7 million of Federal Funds.

While local law enforcement and the Department of Human Services are responsible for investigating cases of child abuse, the purpose of CACs is to provide forensic interviews, medical examinations, treatment, mental health treatment, and referral and/or coordination of other services. CAC's determine whether the child has been abused or neglected and if so, facilitate a coordinated, comprehensive and multidisciplinary response to cases of child abuse. CACs, if available, also participate in county Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) child abuse case reviews. In the absence of CACs, services are provided by law enforcement, hospitals, or other medical facilities that may not employ individuals with specialized training in child abuse assessments or be able to provide or refer children to support services.

There are an estimated 21 CACs across the state, five of which are designated as Regional Assessment Centers or Regional Children's Advocacy Centers and are operated as a CAC. Regional Assessment Centers provide trainings and complex case assistance to both CACs and MDTs. Thirteen CACs provide services to a single county and eight CACs provide services to more than one county, including two Eastern Oregon CACs that provide services to five counties each. CACs operate as a loose network and cases can be transferred among CACs depending upon the available capacity of individual CACs.

The Survivor Housing grant program is a non-statutory program established to assists survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, and human trafficking to maintain and access safe permanent housing. Grantees use funds to provide staff, housing, and other financial support survivors' housing stability. The program was originally funded with American Rescue Plan Act funds from the 2021-23 biennium.

The Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund (ODSVS)(ORS 147.453) awards grants to non-profit organizations that provide services to victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence. ODSVS does not have a defined source of revenue and therefore is funded by the General Fund.