

A-Engrossed Senate Bill 1579

Ordered by the Senate February 19
Including Senate Amendments dated February 19

Sponsored by Senators KNOPP, SMITH DB, Representative HELFRICH, Senator MANNING JR, Representatives LEVY E, NERON; Senators ANDERSON, BONHAM, FINDLEY, HANSELL, HAYDEN, LINTHICUM, WEBER, Representatives BOICE, BOSHART DAVIS, BOWMAN, BREESE-IVERSON, CRAMER, DIEHL, ELMER, EVANS, GOMBERG, GOODWIN, GRAYBER, HIEB, LEVY B, LEWIS, LIVELY, MANNIX, MCINTIRE, PHAM H, SCHARF, WALLAN, WRIGHT, YUNKER (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act creates a new fund for a current grant program that provides moneys for child abuse response programs. The Act directs DOJ to create a one-time grant program to expand access to services and supports from CACs. The Act creates a task force to audit how this state has complied with Karly's Law and to study other matters related to services provided to victims of child abuse. (Flesch Readability Score: 64.3).

[Digest: The Act creates a new fund for a current grant program that provides moneys for child abuse response programs. The Act directs DHS to create a one-time grant program to expand access to services and supports from CACs. The Act creates a task force to audit how this state has complied with Karly's Law and to study other matters related to services provided to victims of child abuse. (Flesch Readability Score: 64.3).]

Establishes the Children's Advocacy Center Fund. Provides that the Legislative Assembly shall appropriate sufficient moneys to the fund that are necessary to fully fund the existing grant program to establish, maintain and support children's advocacy centers and regional children's advocacy centers, and to support county child abuse multidisciplinary teams. Appropriates moneys to the Department of Justice out of the General Fund for the existing grant program.

Directs the Department of *[Human Services]* **Justice** to develop and administer a one-time grant program to expand access to services and supports provided by children's advocacy centers and regional children's advocacy centers. Appropriates moneys to the Department of *[Human Services]* **Justice** out of the General Fund for the grant program.

Establishes the Task Force on County Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Teams to audit Oregon's compliance with Karly's Law, to study and provide proposals for optimal funding rates for children's advocacy centers and to identify barriers to access to child abuse multidisciplinary teams and children's advocacy centers. Requires the task force to report findings and recommendations to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to human services on or before *[September 15]* **December 3, 2024**. Sunsets the task force January 2, 2026. Appropriates moneys to the Department of **Justice** out of the General Fund for purposes of the task force.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to child abuse; creating new provisions; amending ORS 418.788; and declaring an emer-
3 gency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER FUND

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8 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2024 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 418.746 to**
9 **418.796.**

10 **SECTION 2. (1) The Children's Advocacy Center Fund is established in the State Treas-**
11 **ury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Children's Advo-**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **cacy Center Fund shall be credited to the fund. The fund consists of moneys appropriated,**
2 **allocated, deposited or transferred to the fund by the Legislative Assembly or otherwise and**
3 **interest earned on moneys in the fund. The moneys in the fund are continuously appropri-**
4 **ated to the Department of Justice for carrying out the purposes of ORS 418.786.**

5 **(2) To establish and maintain sufficient children’s advocacy centers and regional**
6 **children’s advocacy centers in Oregon necessary to ensure that every child referred to a**
7 **center for concerns of neglect or abuse receives a skilled, complete and, if needed,**
8 **forensically sound child abuse assessment, the Legislative Assembly shall appropriate, allo-**
9 **cate or otherwise make available to the Children’s Advocacy Center Fund moneys necessary**
10 **to fully fund the grant program required by ORS 418.786.**

11 **SECTION 3.** ORS 418.788 is amended to read:

12 418.788. (1) Subject to the availability of funds under the provisions of ORS 418.796 **and section**
13 **1 of this 2024 Act,** the administrator of the Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention Program
14 shall make grants for the establishment and maintenance of children’s advocacy centers or regional
15 children’s advocacy centers.

16 (2)(a) A public or private agency may apply to the administrator for a grant to:

17 (A) Establish and maintain a children’s advocacy center or regional children’s advocacy center;

18 (B) Provide training and technical assistance to children’s advocacy centers or county child
19 abuse multidisciplinary teams; or

20 (C) Provide coordination and support to regional children’s advocacy centers.

21 (b) The administrator may consolidate applications from more than one public or private agency
22 or may return the application with the recommendation that the application be consolidated.

23 (3) The administrator shall by rule establish criteria for awarding grants to establish and
24 maintain children’s advocacy centers or regional children’s advocacy centers, including but not
25 limited to:

26 (a) Expenses eligible for reimbursement from funds under ORS 418.796 **and section 1 of this**
27 **2024 Act;**

28 (b) The extent to which the applicant’s proposal will best accomplish the purposes of ORS
29 418.746 to 418.796;

30 (c) The extent to which an applicant meets criteria for receiving a grant to:

31 (A) Establish and maintain a children’s advocacy center or regional children’s advocacy center;

32 (B) Provide training and technical assistance to children’s advocacy centers and county child
33 abuse multidisciplinary teams; or

34 (C) Provide coordination and support to regional children’s advocacy centers;

35 (d) Minimum facility standards for children’s advocacy centers and regional children’s advocacy
36 centers consistent with national accreditation standards to ensure that children receive consistent,
37 evidence-based intervention services statewide;

38 (e) Minimum forensic interview training standards that are consistent with national forensic
39 interview training standards, evidence-based and supported by current forensic interview research;
40 and

41 (f) For a regional children’s advocacy center, the extent to which the applicant’s proposal meets
42 the documented needs of the communities, children’s advocacy centers and county child abuse
43 multidisciplinary teams in the region or regions to be served by the center.

44 (4) The administrator is not required to fund any grant in the total amount requested in the
45 application.

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER ONE-TIME GRANTS

SECTION 4. (1) As used in this section:

(a) "Children's advocacy center" means a facility that meets the facility standards described in ORS 418.788, to which a child from the community may be referred to receive a thorough child abuse assessment, as defined in ORS 418.782, for the purpose of determining whether the child has been abused or neglected, and that facilitates a coordinated, comprehensive and multidisciplinary response to cases of child abuse.

(b) "Regional children's advocacy center" means a facility operated by a children's advocacy center that meets the facility standards described in ORS 418.788 and is selected by the Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention Program to provide training and complex case assistance, including one or more of the following:

(A) Consultation;

(B) Education;

(C) Referral;

(D) Technical assistance; and

(E) If authorized by the Department of Justice, other services as needed.

(2) The Department of Justice shall develop and administer a one-time competitive grant program to expand access to services and supports provided by children's advocacy centers and regional children's advocacy centers and to increase the number of children served by children's advocacy centers and regional children's advocacy centers in this state.

(3) The department shall adopt rules for carrying out the grant program under this section. The rules must, at a minimum:

(a) Require that an applicant must be accredited by the National Children's Alliance or have an application for accreditation with the National Children's Alliance pending at the time the applicant submits its grant application.

(b) Require children's advocacy centers to apply directly for the grants.

(c) Allow a health care provider or a medical facility to apply for a grant to expand medical assessment services, intervention services and any other services and supports not inconsistent with the purposes of ORS 418.746 to 418.796, if:

(A) The health care provider or medical facility is connected through a linkage agreement or contract with a children's advocacy center; and

(B) The children's advocacy center meets the accreditation criteria under paragraph (a) of this subsection.

(d) Provide preference for awarding grants to applicants based on:

(A) The applicant's capability to expand access to or maintain a children's advocacy center in an underserved community;

(B) The applicant's capability to expand access of a children's advocacy center to a geographic area of this state with no children's advocacy centers;

(C) The likelihood that the applicant, if awarded a grant, will expand access to children's advocacy center services and supports to children from historically marginalized and underserved communities; and

(D) If awarded a grant, the ability of the existing or proposed children's advocacy center to provide behavioral and mental health services for victims of child abuse.

(e) Allow grant recipients to use the grants to expand access to designated medical pro-

1 fessionals, as described in ORS 418.747 (9).

2 (f) Require applicants to demonstrate how the grant award would allow for initial con-
3 sultation with a designated medical professional, as defined in ORS 419B.023, within 48 hours
4 in accordance with Karly's Law and would improve response times for intervention following
5 incidents of child abuse and the prevention of child fatalities.

6 (g) Provide that the cumulative amount of grants provided from the grant program de-
7 scribed in this section to a given children's advocacy center, including the amounts of any
8 grants awarded as permitted under paragraph (c) of this subsection to a health care provider
9 or medical facility that is connected with the children's advocacy center, may not exceed
10 \$1,000,000.

11 (4) The department shall award and distribute all of the grants under this section no
12 later than June 30, 2025.

13 **SECTION 5.** (1) The Children's Advocacy Center One-Time Grant Fund is established in
14 the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. The Children's Advocacy
15 Center One-Time Grant Fund consists of moneys appropriated, allocated, deposited or
16 transferred to the fund by the Legislative Assembly or otherwise. Interest earned by the
17 fund shall be credited to the fund. Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the
18 Department of Justice for carrying out the purposes of section 4 of this 2024 Act.

19 (2) The department may use moneys in the fund to pay the administrative costs associ-
20 ated with the fund and with administering the grant program under section 4 of this 2024
21 Act.

22
23 **TASK FORCE ON COUNTY CHILD ABUSE MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAMS**

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25 **SECTION 6.** (1) The Task Force on County Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Teams is es-
26 tablished.

27 (2) The task force consists of 13 members appointed as follows:

28 (a) The President of the Senate shall appoint one member from among members of the
29 Senate from the majority party and one member from among members of the Senate from
30 the minority party.

31 (b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member from among
32 members of the House of Representatives from the majority party of the House of Repre-
33 sentatives and one member from among members of the House of Representatives from the
34 minority party.

35 (c) The Governor shall appoint eight members as follows:

36 (A) One member who is a child advocate;

37 (B) One member who is a representative of a children's advocacy center located in Cen-
38 tral, Eastern or Southern Oregon;

39 (C) One member who is a representative of a children's advocacy center located in
40 Western Oregon;

41 (D) One member who is a member a law enforcement agency;

42 (E) One member who is mental health care provider with expertise in children's mental
43 health;

44 (F) One member who is a health care provider with expertise as a pediatric physician;

45 (G) One member who is a professional with expertise in child abuse and neglect; and

1 (H) One member who is a representative of the Oregon District Attorneys Association.

2 (d) The Attorney General shall appoint one member who represents the Department of
3 Justice.

4 (3) All appointments to the task force made under subsection (2) of this section must be
5 completed by the later of 21 days after adjournment sine die of the 2024 session of the
6 Eighty-second Legislative Assembly or March 31, 2024.

7 (4) The task force shall study best practices of child abuse multidisciplinary teams de-
8 veloped under ORS 418.747 and related referral processes, by:

9 (a) Conducting a comprehensive audit of Oregon's compliance with the provisions of
10 Karly's Law between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2023, and preparing an audit report
11 that includes at a minimum:

12 (A) The percent of medical assessments that were conducted within the time frame re-
13 quired under ORS 419B.023 (2)(a)(B);

14 (B) Demographic data regarding the children who were the subjects of medical assess-
15 ments required under ORS 419B.023 or of critical incidents, as defined in ORS 418.808;

16 (C) Identification of barriers to compliance with the provisions of ORS 418.806 to 418.816
17 and 419B.023;

18 (D) Proposed solutions to ensure compliance with the provisions of ORS 418.806 to 418.816
19 and 419B.023; and

20 (E) Recommendations for publishing compliance rates on a regular basis going forward.

21 (b) Studying and providing proposals for optimal funding rates for children's advocacy
22 centers.

23 (c) Identifying barriers to access to the child abuse multidisciplinary teams outside of
24 regular business hours and proposing solutions to expand such access.

25 (d) Identifying barriers to referrals to children's advocacy centers and proposing sol-
26 utions to close referral gaps.

27 (e) Identifying challenges for drug-endangered children and proposing solutions to expand
28 services for those children.

29 (5) A majority of the voting members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the
30 transaction of business.

31 (6) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the voting
32 members of the task force.

33 (7) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.

34 (8) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-
35 ment to become immediately effective.

36 (9) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson
37 or of a majority of the voting members of the task force.

38 (10) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

39 (11) The task force shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and
40 may include recommendations for legislation, to the interim committees of the Legislative
41 Assembly related to human services no later than December 3, 2024.

42 (12) The Department of Justice shall provide staff support to the task force.

43 (13) Members of the Legislative Assembly appointed to the task force are nonvoting
44 members of the task force and may act in an advisory capacity only.

45 (14) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are not

1 entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses and serve as volunteers on the task
2 force.

3 (15) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist
4 the task force in the performance of the duties of the task force and, to the extent permitted
5 by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the task
6 force consider necessary to perform their duties.

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8 **APPROPRIATIONS**

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10 **SECTION 7.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
11 ated to the Department of Justice, for the biennium ending June 30, 2025, out of the General
12 Fund, the amount of \$3,500,000, for deposit in the Children’s Advocacy Center Fund estab-
13 lished under section 2 of this 2024 Act.

14 **SECTION 8.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
15 ated to the Department of Justice, for the biennium ending June 30, 2025, out of the General
16 Fund, the amount of \$27,000,000, for deposit in the Children’s Advocacy Center One-Time
17 Grant Fund established under section 5 of this 2024 Act.

18 **SECTION 9.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
19 ated to the Department of Justice, for the biennium ending June 30, 2025, out of the General
20 Fund, the amount of \$ _____, to carry out the purposes of section 6 of this 2024 Act.

21
22 **MISCELLANEOUS**

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24 **SECTION 10.** Sections 4 to 6 of this 2024 Act are repealed on January 2, 2026.

25 **SECTION 11.** The unit captions used in this 2024 Act are provided only for the conven-
26 ience of the reader and do not become part of the statutory law of this state or express any
27 legislative intent in the enactment of this 2024 Act.

28 **SECTION 12.** This 2024 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
29 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2024 Act takes effect
30 on its passage.

31 _____