

B-Engrossed Senate Bill 1579

Ordered by the Senate March 7
Including Senate Amendments dated February 19 and March 7

Sponsored by Senators KNOPP, SMITH DB, Representative HELFRICH, Senator MANNING JR, Representatives LEVY E, NERON; Senators ANDERSON, BONHAM, CAMPOS, FINDLEY, FREDERICK, HANSELL, HAYDEN, LINTHICUM, WEBER, Representatives BOICE, BOSCHART 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. (Flesch Readability Score: 69.5).

[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).]

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 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 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 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-**
12 **cacy Center Fund shall be credited to the fund. The fund consists of moneys appropriated,**

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 allocated, deposited or transferred to the fund by the Legislative Assembly or otherwise and
2 interest earned on moneys in the fund. The moneys in the fund are continuously appropri-
3 ated to the Department of Justice for carrying out the purposes of ORS 418.786.

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

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

11 418.788. (1) Subject to the availability of funds under the provisions of ORS 418.796 **and section**
12 **2 of this 2024 Act**, the administrator of the Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention Program
13 shall make grants for the establishment and maintenance of children's advocacy centers or regional
14 children's advocacy centers.

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

16 (A) Establish and maintain a children's advocacy center or regional children's advocacy center;

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

19 (C) Provide coordination and support to regional children's advocacy centers.

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

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

25 (a) Expenses eligible for reimbursement from funds under ORS 418.796 **and section 2 of this**
26 **2024 Act**;

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

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

30 (A) Establish and maintain a children's advocacy center or regional children's advocacy center;

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

33 (C) Provide coordination and support to regional children's advocacy centers;

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

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

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

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

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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 noncompetitive 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)(a) The department shall distribute 50 percent of the amounts available for the grant program, in equal shares to each children's advocacy center that is providing services in this state on the effective date of this 2024 Act.

(b) If the department is unable to distribute one or more children's advocacy center share or portion of a share under this subsection and amounts remain undistributed on June 30, 2025, the department shall distribute the undistributed amounts to Oregon Child Abuse Solutions for the purpose of providing or coordinating the provision of assistance to children's advocacy centers seeking accreditation with the National Children's Alliance.

(4) The department shall distribute the remaining 50 percent of amounts available for the grant program as provided in subsection (5) of this section.

(5) The department shall adopt rules for distributing the remaining 50 percent of amounts available for the grant program. The rules must, at a minimum:

(a) Require that an applicant certify that on or before June 30, 2025, the applicant will be accredited by the National Children's Alliance or will have an application for accreditation with the National Children's Alliance pending.

(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 satisfies the accreditation requirements described in paragraph (a) of this subsection.

(d) Permit the department, when determining the amounts of grants awarded under this

1 subsection, to consider:

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

4 (B) The applicant's capability to expand access of a children's advocacy center to a ge-
5 ographic area of this state with no children's advocacy centers;

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

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

11 (E) The applicant's capability to provide services to drug endangered children; and

12 (F) The applicant's capability to provide services to children who have been trafficked.

13 (e) Allow grant recipients to use the grants:

14 (A) To expand access to designated medical professionals, as described in ORS 418.747 (9);
15 and

16 (B) For costs associated with obtaining accreditation from the National Children's Alli-
17 ance, including application fees and support staff expenses.

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

22 (g) Provide that the total amount distributed to a given children's advocacy center under
23 this section may not exceed \$300,000, calculated based on the total of:

24 (A) Amounts distributed to the children's advocacy center under subsection (3) of this
25 section; and

26 (B) Amounts awarded to the children's advocacy center under this subsection, including
27 the amounts of any grants awarded as permitted under paragraph (c) of this subsection to
28 a health care provider or medical facility that is connected with the children's advocacy
29 center.

30 (6) The department shall award and distribute all of the amounts available for grants
31 under this section no later than June 30, 2025.

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

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

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42 **APPROPRIATION**
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44 **SECTION 6.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
45 ated to the Department of Justice, for the biennium ending June 30, 2025, out of the General

1 Fund, the amount of \$7,000,000, for deposit in the Children's Advocacy Center One-Time
2 Grant Fund established under section 5 of this 2024 Act.

3 **SECTION 7.** Notwithstanding any other law limiting expenditures, the amount of
4 \$7,000,000 is established for the biennium ending June 30, 2025, as the maximum limit for
5 payment of expenses from fees, moneys or other revenues, including Miscellaneous Receipts,
6 but excluding lottery funds and other federal funds, collected or received by the Department
7 of Justice, for the Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division, for the Children's Advocacy
8 Center One-Time Grant Fund established by section 5 of this 2024 Act, for the grants and
9 grant program administrative costs under section 4 of this 2024 Act.

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11 **MISCELLANEOUS**
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13 **SECTION 8.** Sections 4 and 5 of this 2024 Act are repealed on January 2, 2026.

14 **SECTION 9.** The unit captions used in this 2024 Act are provided only for the convenience
15 of the reader and do not become part of the statutory law of this state or express any leg-
16 islative intent in the enactment of this 2024 Act.

17 **SECTION 10.** This 2024 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
18 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2024 Act takes effect
19 on its passage.
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