

Senate Bill 1579

Sponsored by Senators KNOPP, SMITH DB, Representative HELFRICH, Senator MANNING JR, Representatives LEVY E, NERON; Senators ANDERSON, BONHAM, FINDLEY, HANSELL, 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 (Presession 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 **as introduced**. 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 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 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 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, 2024. Sunsets the task force January 2, 2026. Appropriates moneys to the department 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,**
13 **allocated, deposited or transferred to the fund by the Legislative Assembly or otherwise and**
14 **interest earned on moneys in the fund. The moneys in the fund are continuously appropri-**
15 **ated to the Department of Justice for carrying out the purposes of ORS 418.786.**

16 **(2) To establish and maintain sufficient children's advocacy centers and regional**

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 **children’s advocacy centers in Oregon necessary to ensure that every child referred to a**
 2 **center for concerns of neglect or abuse receives a skilled, complete and forensically sound**
 3 **child abuse assessment, the Legislative Assembly shall appropriate, allocate or otherwise**
 4 **make available to the Children’s Advocacy Center Fund moneys necessary to fully fund the**
 5 **grant program required by ORS 418.786.**

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

7 418.788. (1) Subject to the availability of funds under the provisions of ORS 418.796 **and section**
 8 **1 of this 2024 Act**, the administrator of the Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention Program
 9 shall make grants for the establishment and maintenance of children’s advocacy centers or regional
 10 children’s advocacy centers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 (a) Expenses eligible for reimbursement from funds under ORS 418.796 **and section 1 of this**
 22 **2024 Act;**

23 (b) The extent to which the applicant’s proposal will best accomplish the purposes of ORS
 24 418.746 to 418.796;

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

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

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

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

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

33 (e) Minimum forensic interview training standards that are consistent with national forensic
 34 interview training standards, evidence-based and supported by current forensic interview research;
 35 and

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

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

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 42 **CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTER ONE-TIME GRANTS**

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

45 (a) **“Children’s advocacy center” means a facility that meets the facility standards de-**

1 scribed in ORS 418.788, to which a child from the community may be referred to receive a
 2 thorough child abuse assessment, as defined in ORS 418.782, for the purpose of determining
 3 whether the child has been abused or neglected, and that facilitates a coordinated, compre-
 4 hensive and multidisciplinary response to cases of child abuse.

5 (b) “Regional children’s advocacy center” means a facility operated by a children’s advo-
 6 cacy center that meets the facility standards described in ORS 418.788 and is selected by the
 7 Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention Program to provide training and complex case
 8 assistance, including one or more of the following:

9 (A) Consultation;

10 (B) Education;

11 (C) Referral;

12 (D) Technical assistance; and

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

14 (2) The Department of Human Services shall develop and administer a one-time grant
 15 program to expand access to services and supports provided by children’s advocacy centers
 16 and regional children’s advocacy centers and to increase the number of children served by
 17 children’s advocacy centers and regional children’s advocacy centers in this state.

18 (3) The department shall adopt rules for carrying out the grant program under this sec-
 19 tion. The rules must, at a minimum:

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

21 (A) The applicant’s ability to establish or maintain a children’s advocacy center in an
 22 underserved community;

23 (B) The applicant’s ability to establish a children’s advocacy center in a geographic area
 24 of this state with no children’s advocacy centers;

25 (C) The likelihood that the applicant, if awarded a grant, will expand access to children’s
 26 advocacy center services and children’s advocacy center supports to children from histor-
 27 ically marginalized and underserved communities; and

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

30 (b) Require children’s advocacy centers to apply directly for the competitive grants.

31 (c) Allow grant recipients to use the grants to expand access to designated medical pro-
 32 fessionals, as described in ORS 418.747 (9).

33 (d) Require applicants to demonstrate how the grant award would improve response
 34 times for intervention following incidents of child abuse and the prevention of child fatalities.

35 (e) Allow health care providers and medical facilities to apply for grant funds to expand
 36 medical assessment services, intervention services and any other services and supports not
 37 inconsistent with the purposes of ORS 418.746 to 418.796.

38 (f) Provide that the cumulative amount of grants provided to a given children’s advocacy
 39 center may not exceed \$1,000,000.

40 (4) The department shall award and distribute all of the grants under this section no
 41 later than December 31, 2024.

42 **SECTION 5.** (1) The Children’s Advocacy Center One-Time Grant Fund is established in
 43 the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. The Children’s Advocacy
 44 Center One-Time Grant Fund consists of moneys appropriated, allocated, deposited or
 45 transferred to the fund by the Legislative Assembly or otherwise. Moneys in the fund are

1 continuously appropriated to the Department of Human Services for carrying out the pur-
 2 poses of section 4 of this 2024 Act.

3 (2) The department may use moneys in the fund to pay the administrative costs associ-
 4 ated with the fund and with administering the grant program under section 4 of this 2024
 5 Act. Administrative costs paid under this subsection may not exceed five percent of the
 6 total moneys appropriated, allocated, deposited or transferred to the fund by the Legislative
 7 Assembly.

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 9 **TASK FORCE ON COUNTY CHILD ABUSE MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAMS**

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

13 (2) The task force consists of 11 members appointed as follows:

14 (a) The President of the Senate shall appoint one member from among members of the
 15 Senate from the majority party and one member from among members of the Senate from
 16 the minority party.

17 (b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member from among
 18 members of the House of Representatives from the majority party of the House of Repre-
 19 sentatives and one member from among members of the House of Representatives from the
 20 minority party.

21 (c) The Governor shall appoint seven members as follows:

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

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

25 (C) One member who is a representative of a children’s advocacy center located in
 26 Western Oregon;

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

28 (E) One member who is mental health care provider with expertise in children’s mental
 29 health;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

45 (C) Identification of barriers to compliance with the provisions of ORS 418.806 to 418.816

1 and 419B.023;

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

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

5 (b) Studying and providing proposals for optimal funding rates for children’s advocacy
6 centers.

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

9 (d) Identifying barriers to referrals to children’s advocacy centers and proposing sol-
10 utions to close referral gaps.

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 (11) The task force shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and
22 may include recommendations for legislation, to the interim committees of the Legislative
23 Assembly related to human services no later than September 15, 2024.

24 (12) The Department of Human Services shall provide staff support to the task force.

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

27 (14) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are not
28 entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses and serve as volunteers on the task
29 force.

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

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35 **APPROPRIATIONS**

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

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

45 **SECTION 9.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-

1 ated to the Department of Human Services, for the biennium ending June 30, 2025, out of the
2 General Fund, the amount of \$ _____, to carry out the purposes of section 6 of this 2024
3 Act.

4
5 MISCELLANEOUS
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7 SECTION 10. Sections 4 to 6 of this 2024 Act are repealed on January 2, 2026.

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

11 SECTION 12. This 2024 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
12 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2024 Act takes effect
13 on its passage.
14 _____