

SB 138 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

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Meeting Dates: 1/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure allows, but does not require, the Department of Human Services (DHS) to make a website for reporting instances of child abuse. The measure is effective January 1, 2026.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

Detailed Summary:

Modifies the requirement that DHS develop and maintain a centralized child abuse reporting system consisting of both a reporting hotline and a website for electronic reports of suspected child abuse to permit, but not require, DHS to develop a website of electronic reports of suspected child abuse.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law requires certain individuals such as doctors, teachers, elected officials, government employees, social workers, and caregivers, who have close contact with potentially vulnerable populations to report instances of abuse of those populations to the Department of Human Services (DHS). The full list of mandatory reports is found in [ORS 419B.005](#). These reports are recorded and investigated by DHS, although criminal charges may also be filed separately.

The Oregon Child Abuse Hotline (ORCAH), launched in 2019, is a telephone-only reporting system for reports of child abuse. [Senate Bill 231](#), passed in 2023, required DHS to develop and maintain a centralized child abuse reporting system, including a reporting hotline for telephone reports and a website for electronic reports of suspected child abuse.