

HB 2901 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

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Meeting Dates: 1/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure permits authorized facilities to install a newborn safety device if the device and facility meet certain requirements. The measure allows parents to leave a newborn in these devices in lieu of interacting with a person at the facility for the purposes of anonymously surrendering the infant

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

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

Detailed Summary

Permits a parent to leave an infant 60 days old or younger in a newborn safety device at an authorized facility as an alternative to transferring physical custody to an agent, employee, physician, or other medical professional at an authorized facility. Allows authorized facilities, which include hospitals, freestanding birth centers, physician's offices, sheriff's offices, police stations, and fire stations, to install a newborn safety device if they meet certain requirements. Requires authorized facilities that install a newborn safety device to install the device in a conspicuous area visible to employees of the facility, equip the device with a dual alarm system, and be staffed 24 hours per day by a physician or medical professional. Specifies that a facility that installs a device is responsible for the cost of installation and maintenance of the device, and that the facility must test the system at least once per week and visually inspect the system at least twice per day.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

[Oregon's Safe Haven Law](#) allows a parent to anonymously leave a newborn at an authorized facility with the intention of surrendering parental custody of the child. Current law requires a parent to leave the infant in the physical custody of an employee, physician, or other medical professional working at an authorized facility. Authorized facilities include hospitals, doctor's offices, law enforcement stations, or fire stations. The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) takes custody of the infant when the infant is left at the facility.

This law was first enacted in 2001 through [Senate Bill 199](#). In 2023, [House Bill 3626](#) expanded the age of infants that can be surrendered under this law from 30 days or younger to 60 days or younger.

The requirements of where a parent may leave a newborn under safe haven laws vary across states. Several states, including [Idaho](#), [Texas](#), and [Wisconsin](#) permit the installation and use of newborn safety devices.