

## SB 915 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Human Services

---

**Prepared By:** Taylor Bickel, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/11

---

#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to ensure that the assessment and investigation of reports of child abuse are conducted by the program that specializes in training, investigations, and safety when the report involves a person under 18 residing in a youth correction or detention facility, or a child residing with a foster family or in a foster home certified by DHS, if the subject of the investigation is not the child's parent.

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

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

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Oregon law requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to oversee the development of standards and procedures for assessment, investigation, and enforcement of child protective services ([ORS 409.185](#)). DHS staff work closely with law enforcement agencies and other members of multidisciplinary teams in each county to assess and issue findings on reports of suspected abuse. In substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect, DHS must complete a comprehensive family assessment of the risk of abuse or neglect, assess service needs, and provide immediate protective services as necessary to ensure the safety of the child ([ORS 409.185](#)).

[The Office of Training, Investigations and Safety \(OTIS\)](#) investigates child abuse allegations that occur in certain settings, including Child Caring Agencies (CCAs), child care and educational providers, developmental disabilities residential facilities, and other professional caregiving settings. [CCAs](#) are licensed by DHS to provide care and services to children and include organizations such as foster care agencies, residential care programs, adoption agencies, and academic boarding schools, among others. OTIS also conducts investigations of third party child abuse, when the alleged perpetrator is external to the child's family ([OTIS, 2023](#)).