

HB 3926 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Department of State Police to establish the SIGNAL program (State Initiated Guidance for Notifying and Assisting the Lost), which allows a parent or former guardian of a missing person between the ages of 18 and 30 to submit a written or voice message to be stored with the missing person's case file.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 The amendment replaces the bill. It requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to establish the Call Your Mom Program and create a secure messaging system to facilitate secure message exchanges between parents or former guardians and their missing adult children, aged 18 to 30, through behavioral health treatment or rehabilitation organizations. It requires the behavioral health treatment or rehabilitation organization to determine at intake whether an individual is listed in the system and, if so, notify them of any submitted messages and provide access to respond. Participation is voluntary. The measure defines "missing family member" and specifies eligible organization types. It requires OHA to adopt rules for data retention, system security, and message deletion timelines. It has an operative date of July 1, 2026, and allows OHA and providers to begin preparatory actions prior to that date.

BACKGROUND:

Under Oregon law, law enforcement agencies enter information about missing persons into state and federal databases pursuant to ORS 146.181. Current statutes do not provide a formal mechanism for communication between missing individuals and their families once the individual is over the age of 18 and legally considered an adult. House Bill 3926 proposes the creation of a program to facilitate communications between parents or former guardians and their missing adult children aged 18 to 30.