

HB 2901 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

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Meeting Dates: 4/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure permits authorized facilities to install a newborn safety device if the device and facility meet certain requirements. It allows parents to leave a newborn in the safety device, instead of interacting with a person at the facility, for the purpose of anonymously surrendering an infant.

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 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, to equip the device with a dual alarm system, and to 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.

- Requires the facility to test the dual alarm system at least once per week and visually inspect the system at least twice per day.

House Vote: Ayes, 50; Excused, 10

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

[Senate Bill 199](#) (2001) established [Oregon's Safe Haven Law](#), which permits a parent to anonymously leave a newborn at an authorized facility with the intention of surrendering parental custody of the child. [House Bill 3626](#) (2023) expanded the age of infants that can be surrendered under this law from 30 days or younger to 60 days or younger. 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.

Requirements for locations where parents may leave newborns vary by state. Safe Haven laws in several states, including [Idaho](#), [Texas](#), and [Wisconsin](#), permit the installation and use of newborn safety devices.

House Bill 2901 permits authorized facilities to install a newborn safety device and allows parents to leave a newborn in these devices for the purposes of anonymously surrendering an infant.