

SB 135 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

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Meeting Dates: 4/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires that certain multidisciplinary and review teams include a representative of a local CASA volunteer program, if available.

Detailed Summary:

- Requires the addition of a representative of a local CASA Volunteer Program, if available, on
- - a multidisciplinary domestic violence fatality review team established by a local domestic violence coordinating council;
 - county child abuse multidisciplinary teams developed by each county's district attorney; and
 - Critical Incident Review Teams (CIRTs) assigned by the Department of Human Services.

REVENUE: No revenue impact.

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact.

SENATE VOTE: Ayes, 28; Nays, 0; Excused, 2.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Court appointed special advocates (CASA) and guardian ad litem (GAL) volunteers are appointed by courts to advocate for children's interests during court proceedings. In 2021, the legislature passed [HB 2738](#), which required the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to contract with a nongovernmental statewide coordinating entity to oversee the CASA Volunteer Programs and services. [Oregon's CASA Network](#) is the statewide organization that supports Oregon's 20 local CASA programs. The local programs recruit, screen, train, and support CASA volunteers.

In Oregon, multidisciplinary domestic violence fatality review teams are collaborative groups composed of experts from various fields who review domestic violence fatalities and make recommendations to prevent domestic violence fatalities. They typically consist of law enforcement personnel, healthcare providers, social services and domestic violence advocates, legal experts, and in certain cases, additional members such as educators, policy makers, or victim support organizations. County child abuse multidisciplinary teams are collaborative groups established at the county level under the leadership of the district attorney. These teams bring together professionals from various sectors to address, investigate, and prevent child abuse. The teams include representatives from several fields, such as law enforcement, child protective services, healthcare, education, and the legal community. [Critical Incident Review Teams](#) are a specially designated group assigned by the Department of Human Services to investigate and analyze significant child abuse incidents. The team is typically multidisciplinary, including professionals in child welfare, juvenile court judges, legislators, or district attorneys.