

**SB 135 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

Carrier: Sen. Linthicum

**Senate Committee On Human Services****Action Date:** 03/25/25**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)**Vote:** 5-0-0-0**Yeas:** 5 - Gelser Blouin, Linthicum, Nash, Prozanski, Reynolds**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Taylor Bickel, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 3/11, 3/25**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure requires that a representative of a local CASA Volunteer Program be included on certain multidisciplinary and review teams.

Detailed Summary:

- Requires the addition of a representative of a local CASA Volunteer Program, if available, to
  - multidisciplinary domestic violence fatality review teams established by local domestic violence coordinating councils,
  - county child abuse multidisciplinary teams developed by each county's district attorney, and
  - critical Incident Review Teams assigned by the Department of Human Services.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Provisions of amendments
- Inclusion of CASA volunteers on child abuse multidisciplinary teams
- Inclusion of CASA organization staff rather than CASA volunteers
- Capacity of current CASA volunteers to serve on advisory bodies

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

The amendment replaces the measure.

**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. [The National CASA Association](#) was founded in 1977 in Seattle, Washington. [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

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multidisciplinary, including professionals in child welfare, juvenile court judges, legislators, or district attorneys.