

SB 915 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

Action Date: 04/09/25

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

Vote: 3-2-0-0

Yeas: 3 - Gelser Blouin, Prozanski, Reynolds

Nays: 2 - Linthicum, Nash

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Matthew Perreault, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/11, 3/25, 4/1, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) 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 child residing with a foster family or in a foster home certified by ODHS, if the subject of the investigation is not the child's parent. The measure applies to assessments or investigations of reports of child abuse that are pending or are commenced on or after July 1, 2027. The measure becomes operative on July 1, 2027, but authorizes the Director of Human Services to take necessary action ahead of that date.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of amendment
- Inclusion of youth corrections or detention facility
- Balance of responsibilities between Child Protective Services and Office of Training, Investigations and Safety (OTIS)
- Role of OTIS in investigating non-familial abuse
- Scope of investigative responsibilities for OTIS versus other entities
- Investigations conducted by Oregon Youth Authority and Oregon Health Authority
- Alignment of processes across investigations of various child welfare service providers

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment removes references to youth correction facilities, youth care centers, and detention facilities. The amendment applies the provisions of the measure to assessments or investigations of reports of child abuse that are pending or are commenced on or after July 1, 2027. The amendment specifies an operative date of July 1, 2027, but authorizes the Director of Human Services to take necessary action ahead of that date.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law requires the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) to oversee the development of standards and procedures for assessment, investigation, and enforcement of child protective services ([ORS 409.185](#)). ODHS 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, ODHS 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

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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](#)).