

**A-Engrossed**  
**Senate Bill 942**

Ordered by the Senate April 14  
Including Senate Amendments dated April 14

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

**SUMMARY**

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

*[Directs Department of Human Services to conduct statewide study regarding child safety no later than July 1, 2018.]*

*[Requires department to submit report regarding study to interim legislative committees no later than November 1, 2018.]*

*[Sunsets January 2, 2019.]*

**Requires certain findings to be made in child abuse investigations.**

**Provides that child abuse investigations must be conducted in accordance with statutes and result in specified findings until certain criteria have been met.**

**Requires Department of Human Services to conduct exit interview with child or ward who is five years of age or older within 14 days of removing child or ward from placement. Sets forth assessment requirements of exit interview. Becomes operative January 1, 2018.**

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

Relating to child safety; and declaring an emergency.

**Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

**SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2017 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 419B.005 to 419B.050.**

**SECTION 2. (1) An investigation conducted under ORS 419B.020 must conclude in one of the following findings:**

**(a) That the report of child abuse is founded;**

**(b) That the report of child abuse is unfounded; or**

**(c) That the report of child abuse cannot be determined.**

**(2) All investigations conducted under ORS 419B.020 must be conducted in accordance with ORS 419B.005 to 419B.050 and result in the findings described in subsection (1) of this section until all of the following criteria have been met:**

**(a) The child welfare workload model for the Department of Human Services is staffed at 95 percent or greater;**

**(b) A centralized, statewide child abuse hotline has been established and in operation for at least six consecutive months;**

**(c) The department has completed investigations within timelines mandated by law and rule at least 90 percent of the time for at least six consecutive months;**

**(d) The department has conducted in-person contacts with children who are the subject of reports of child abuse, as mandated by law and rule, in at least 90 percent of the reports of child abuse for at least six consecutive months; and**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (e) The reabuse rate for children in this state is below the national average.

2 **SECTION 3.** When a child or ward five years of age or older is in the legal custody of the  
3 Department of Human Services as provided in ORS 418.015 or 419B.337 and has been placed  
4 in substitute care, the department shall conduct an exit interview with the child or ward  
5 within 14 days of removing the child or ward from the placement, whether the removal is for  
6 the purpose of reunification with the family of the child or ward, a different substitute care  
7 placement, adoption or other reason for termination of wardship under ORS 419B.328. The  
8 exit interview must assess, at a minimum, the following:

9 (1) The child's or ward's perception of the safety of the placement;

10 (2) Extracurricular activities that the child or ward participated in while in the place-  
11 ment, including the frequency of participation and whether transportation was provided for  
12 the child or ward;

13 (3) Whether the child or ward would be permitted to leave the placement with all of the  
14 personal belongings of the child or ward;

15 (4) Improvements the child or ward believes should be made to the placement;

16 (5) Strengths of the placement;

17 (6) Whether the child or ward experienced any physical discipline during the placement  
18 and, if so, the nature of the physical discipline; and

19 (7) Whether the child or ward experienced physical or sexual abuse or neglect during the  
20 placement.

21 **SECTION 4.** (1) Section 2 of this 2017 Act applies to investigations pending or commenced  
22 on or after the effective date of this 2017 Act.

23 (2) Section 3 of this 2017 Act applies to children or wards removed from placements by  
24 the Department of Human Services on or after the operative date specified in section 5 of  
25 this 2017 Act.

26 **SECTION 5.** Section 3 of this 2017 Act becomes operative on January 1, 2018.

27 **SECTION 6.** This 2017 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
28 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2017 Act takes effect  
29 on its passage.

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