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Bill requires mandatory reporting outside of working hours

SB 760 expands scope of situations where mandatory reporters must comply

SALEM – The Oregon Senate passed a bill today that requires mandatory reporters who observe suspected abuse to notify the appropriate authorities, regardless of whether those individuals are on the job.

Currently, Oregon’s mandatory reporters are required to report suspected cases of abuse of long-term care residents and developmentally disabled or mentally ill adults when they come into contact as part of the mandatory reporter’s official professional capacity. Senate Bill 760 – which passed by a 30-0 vote on the Senate floor – changes that by requiring that any contact between the mandatory reporter and suspected abused person or abuser prompts reporting.

The report of suspected abuse is made to the Oregon Department of Human Services.

“It’s unconscionable that mandatory reporters could turn a blind eye to a threat to a vulnerable person’s safety because they might spot signs of abuse when they are off the clock from their jobs,” said Sen. Sara Gelser (D-Corvallis), who carried the bill. “This makes it so that mandatory reporters are required to do the right thing by reporting suspected abuses whenever they might come across them.”

SB 760 now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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