



## SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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### NEWS RELEASE

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#### **Sexual assault and domestic violence bills receive Senate vote**

*Four bills approved today, including legislation addressing campus sexual assault*

SALEM – The Senate approved a number of House Bills this morning that address sexual assault and domestic violence.

**House Bill 3476** ensures that victims of sexual assault can seek support services without compromising their privacy. Under this bill, information shared with a certified sexual assault advocate will be privileged communication and the information will be kept confidential.

“Victims of sexual assault need to have access to a safe place to share what happened to them and decide how to move forward without fear that their words and feelings will be used against them at a later time,” said Senator Sara Gelsler (D-Corvallis/Albany), who co-carried the bill on the Senate floor. “Privileged communications with certified sexual assault advocates will allow victims to take control of the situation and begin the critical journey from victim to survivor.”

Other bills approved by the Senate today include:

**HB 2596** will make so-called “up-skirting” and “down-blousing” a crime. Currently, taking and circulating surreptitiously recorded images of people’s intimate areas is not unlawful in all cases. House Bill 2596, along with Senate Bill 188, will close this loophole.

**HB 2776** will increase protections for persons in danger of domestic violence or abuse by allowing peace officers to obtain temporary emergency protective orders with the victim’s consent or permission and if the peace officer has probable cause to believe the person is in danger.

**HB 3466** expands protections for assault victims from intimidation by defendants. Currently, when a defendant is charged with a sex crime or domestic violence, they are prohibited through court order from contacting the victim while in custody or upon release. However, it is not uncommon for a defendant to still try and contact a victim either directly or through a family member or friend. HB 3466A would expand upon the current statutory requirements, making it clear that the court order prohibiting the defendant from having contact with a victim—specifically in sex crime and domestic violence cases—must also include attempted contact by the defendant, either in person or through a third party.

House Bills 3476, 2776, and 3466 now go to the Governor’s desk for her consideration. House Bill 2596 will return to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

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