

One Hundred Sixth Legislature - Second Session - 2020

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB975

Chairperson: Senator Steve Lathrop

Committee: Judiciary

Date of Hearing: January 31, 2020

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB975 revises the statutory immunity granted to persons reporting abuse or who participate in investigations and judicial proceedings resulting from such reports and investigations. The revised language clarifies that immunity extends to persons who furnish medical evaluations, consultations, or other assistance in connection with investigations, reports, or judicial proceedings arising out of a report of child abuse or neglect. Federal law requires states to have specific statutory language regarding immunity to receive federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act grant funding.

The bill permits the names and addresses voluntarily provided by individuals who report child or adult abuse or neglect to be shared with county attorneys and within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in furtherance of the administration of its programs. For example, DHHS would be able to use the reporting party information to investigate reported abuse and neglect in certain Medicaid-certified facilities in the manner required by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Currently, reports of abuse and neglect can be shared within DHHS for licensing purposes, but the names and addresses of the reporting party must be excluded from the information shared with the Licensure Unit who may need that information to take action against a license.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Suzanne Geist