

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 4 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Kruse, Prozanski, Walker, Burdick

Nays: 0

Exc.: Beyer

Prepared By: Bill Taylor, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 5/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Oregon to follow federal requirements concerning criminal records background checks for people applying to be foster parents or adoptive parents. Applies to anyone else residing in the home. Effective October 1, 2008.

Requires the local citizen review board to make written findings concerning whether the Department of Human Services (DHS) made reasonable efforts to place a child, if appropriate, through an interstate placement. Requires an Oregon court to share information with a court in another state in order to facilitate an interstate placement of a child. Requires the case plan for a child in substitute care to have up-to-date health and education records of the child. Requires DHS to report whether a child placed in foster care outside the state has been visited no less frequently than every six months by a state or private agency in the other state. Requires a court during a permanency hearing to consider permanent placement options for child both inside and outside the state. Allows a court to permit a party, or the party's attorney, from outside the state to testify or provide information in a proceeding involving the interstate placement of a child by telephone or other electronic means. Prohibits a court from considering as a change in circumstances temporary placement with the noncustodial parent by the custodial parent because of military deployment of the custodial parent.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Federal funding for children in foster care
- Military deployment of custodial parent

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Prohibits a court from considering as a change in circumstances temporary placement with the noncustodial parent by the custodial parent because of military deployment of the custodial parent.

BACKGROUND: The federal government reimburses the State of Oregon approximately \$125 million biennially for costs associated with children in foster care. As a condition of receiving these funds, the federal government places certain requirements upon Oregon, as it does all the other states. In 2006, the federal government required states to follow federal requirements concerning criminal records background checks. Also, during 2006, the federal government required adoption of additional provisions including provisions concerning placement of children through interstate compacts and the inclusion of certain information, including health and education records, in a child's case file. Oregon must adopt these provisions during this legislative session or risk loss of federal funding.