

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Beyer, Kruse, Prozanski, Walker, Burdick
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Bill Taylor, Counsel
Meeting Dates:	2/19, 3/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Modifies the definition of “foster home” to allow a person related by blood or marriage to maintain a foster home for a child related by blood or marriage and as a result be reimbursed to the same extent that unrelated foster parents are currently being reimbursed.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Parity
- Should there be a means test

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Redefines “foster home” in order to allow a person related by blood or marriage to maintain a foster home for a child related by blood or marriage and thus requiring Department of Human Services to pay related foster parents the same as unrelated foster parents. Deletes the remainder of the bill.

BACKGROUND: A foster parent is paid as follows: (1) \$387 per month for a child under age six; (2) \$402 per month for a child age six to thirteen; (3) \$497 per month for a child over age thirteen. The federal government will reimburse the state of Oregon if the home from which the child comes from is below the federal standard for financial assistance. Conversely, the federal government will not reimburse Oregon if the child comes from a home above this line. Approximately 70 percent of the children in foster care come from homes that are below this line. Nonetheless, the State of Oregon will pay, with state funds and without federal reimbursement, related foster parents if the child comes from a home below the federal poverty line. However, it will not do so if the child comes from a home above the poverty line. This measure would require Oregon to pay, from state funds, related foster parents even if the child in foster care came from a home above the federal poverty line. The number of children being covered under these changes is approximately 500 children. The remaining 7,200 are otherwise covered.