

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
<b>Vote:</b>	8 - 1 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Barker, Bonamici, Cameron, Flores, Komp, Krieger, Read, Macpherson
<b>Nays:</b>	Whisnant
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Bill Taylor, Counsel
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	5/14, 5/17

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Allows an adoptive parent and birth relatives with emotional ties to a child to enter into a written agreement for continued contact between the child and the birth relatives when the child is subject to an adoption proceeding in a dependency matter. Requires the consent of the child if the child is 14 years old or older. Allows a court to show approval of an agreement for continued contact by incorporating the agreement by reference and indicating the court's approval of the agreement in the adoption judgment. Requires birth relative to show emotional ties to the child. Clarifies that the Department of Human Services is not responsible for any costs associated with any written agreement and that the negotiation of such an agreement does not constitute good cause for delaying a juvenile court proceeding.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Contract provisions
- Whether the provision concerning "birth relatives" should be extended to private adoptions

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Allows an adoptive parent and birth relatives with emotional ties to a child to enter into a written agreement for continued contact between the child and the birth relatives when the child is subject to an adoption proceeding in a dependency matter. Requires the consent of the child if the child is 14 years old or older. Allows a court to show approval of an agreement for continued contact by incorporating the agreement by reference and indicating the court's approval of the agreement in the adoption judgment.

**BACKGROUND:** Oregon law allows the adoptive parents and the birth parents to enter into a written agreement, approved by a court, to permit continuing contact between the birth relatives and the child of the adoptive parents. However, the right to enter into this agreement is limited to the birth parents and not the birth relatives even though the agreement may include a provision allowing birth relatives to have continued contact with the adopted child. "Birth relatives" includes birth parents, grandparents, siblings and other members of the child's birth family.