

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	4 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Beyer, Kruse, Walker, Burdick
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Prozanski
Prepared By:	Bill Taylor, Counsel
Meeting Dates:	3/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows birth relatives, as well as birth parents, to enter into a contract with adoptive parents for the purposes of continued contact with the adopted 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:

- Best for child when family is involved
- Currently, adoption terminates the rights of birth parents

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

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.