

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	8 - 1 - 0
Yeas:	Boone, Cowan, Dembrow, Freeman, Huffman, Olson, VanOrman, Tomei
Nays:	Maurer
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Keely West, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/30, 4/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs the Child Care Division of the Employment Department to establish the Voluntary Central Background Registry and conduct criminal records checks for applicants who are employees or volunteers providing childcare services and required by an agency or organization to enroll in the Registry. Allows for enrollment in the registry on completion of a criminal records check of individuals who are determined to have no criminal history but removes ability to enroll if individuals have “dealt with their issues and provided adequate evidence of suitability for the registry.”

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- No differentiation or analysis of individuals crimes resulting in a “criminal history” designation
- Concerns about individuals being required to use the registry rather than volunteer use of the registry
- Benefits of easy accessibility for employers

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Allows for enrollment in the registry on completion of a criminal records check; eliminates the requirement for child protective service checks and enrollment in the Criminal History Registry. Allows for enrollment of individuals who are determined to have no criminal history but removes ability to enroll if individuals have “dealt with their issues and provided adequate evidence of suitability for the registry.”

BACKGROUND: Brought by the Oregon Commission for Child Care, HB 2988 is an attempt to improve and simplify oversight of individuals who serve as volunteers in multiple agencies. Proponents say the bill would permit individuals to have one records check and enroll in the registry. The Child Care Division would create a database that could be checked rather than requiring a new background check. The bill does not include a determination of suitability by the agency.