

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Kotek
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Bates

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure

Vote: 19 – 3 – 0

House

Yeas: Buckley, D. Edwards, Galizio, Garrard, Jenson, Komp, Kotek, Nathanson, Shields, G. Smith

Nays: Gilman, Richardson

Exc:

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Carter, Girod, Johnson, Monroe, Nelson, Verger, Walker, Winters

Nays: Whitsett

Exc:

Prepared By: Kim To, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: June 9, 2009

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes the Private Child-Caring Agencies Fund to receive moneys from civil penalties on a private child-caring agency and other moneys. Moneys in the Private Child-Caring Agencies Fund are continuously appropriated to the Department of Human Services and must be used only for the administration and enforcement of licensing and supervision of private child-caring agencies.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Lack of licensing fees for child-caring agencies
- Need for more Department of Human Services staff for adequate oversight of child-caring agencies

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Department of Human Services (DHS) Children, Adults and Families Division (CAF) is the licensing agency for private child caring agencies in Oregon, with the exception of hospital-based care and facilities licensed for children by the Seniors and People with Disabilities Division. The CAF Licensing Unit monitors and oversees 237 licensed programs: All private adoption agencies; homeless, runaway and transitional living centers; academic boarding schools; therapeutic boarding schools; day treatment programs; residential care facilities; private foster care agencies; and outdoor youth programs. Many of Oregon's most vulnerable and clinically challenging children are in these programs. According to DHS, other divisions charge licensing fees to agencies they regulate. In a survey of agencies similar to CAF in other states, 15 of 16 states reported charging licensing fees for services currently provided free by CAF. The State of Washington charges an annual fee of \$144 per licensed bed and a \$1,000 fee for a follow-up compliance survey resulting from a substantiated complaint. Implementation of the measure will provide resources for increased administration and enforcement of licensing rules.