

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bates, Kruse, Morrisette, Morse, Monnes Anderson
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Robert Shook, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to enter into agreements necessary to carry out the requirements of the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption. Requires DHS to work with the U.S. Department of State to implement requirements for convention adoptions. Requires DHS to develop minimum requirements for placement and supervision of children who are the subject of an outgoing adoption subject to the Convention.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Compliance with requirements of Intercountry Adoption
- Schedule for development of policies
- Agreements with non-signatories the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Children come into state custody because a parent's conduct or condition prevents them from parenting safely. This can be due to drugs, alcohol, abuse, neglect and other related reasons. Parents not able to have their children safely returned to their care may have their parental rights may be relinquished or terminated and their children placed for adoption.

Oregon does not place a significant number of children in international adoptive placements; however, they do make placements internationally as required by federal law when appropriate. From 1999 to 2008, the department placed 27 children for adoption outside of the United States, usually with relatives. Children went to adoptive families in Mexico (13), England (5), Canada (4), New Zealand (4), and Germany (1). Each year the department places about 1,000 children for adoption with the United States, mostly in Oregon.

Intercountry adoption is the process by which a child is adopted from a different country through permanent legal means, and brings the child to the home country to live permanently.

Concerns about the effectiveness of adoption processes in other countries led to the introduction of House Bill 3471-A. According to the Department of Human Services, the measure allows the agency to interact with other countries on a more equal basis and with the support of the U.S. Department of State.

Additionally, as an Oregon agency DHS is required to follow Oregon laws and the measure provides a statutory basis for the department to require certain safeguards from other countries before a child is placed out of the United States for adoption.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.