

2009 Regular Legislative Session
FISCAL ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION
Prepared by the Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office

MEASURE NUMBER: SB 630

STATUS: Original

SUBJECT: Creates a Task Force on Disproportionality in Child Welfare Foster Care.

GOVERNMENT UNIT AFFECTED: Department of Human Services, State Commission on Children and Families, the Oregon Youth Authority, the Oregon Judicial Department, and the Oregon University System

PREPARED BY: Kim To

REVIEWED BY: Sheila Baker

DATE: April 7, 2009

	<u>2009-2011</u>	<u>2011-2013</u>
EXPENDITURES:		
Department of Human Services		
Personal Services – Other Funds	\$ 137,909	
Services and Supplies – Other Funds	\$ 30,973	
Total Department of Human Services – Other Funds	\$ 168,882	

	<u>2009-2011</u>	<u>2011-2013</u>
REVENUES:		
Casey Family Programs Grant – Other Funds	\$ 168,882	

	<u>2009-2011</u>	<u>2011-2013</u>
POSITIONS / FTE:		
Program Analyst 4	1/0.88	

EFFECTIVE DATE: On Passage

GOVERNOR’S BUDGET: This bill is not anticipated by the Governor’s recommended budget.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANDATE: This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

ANALYSIS: Senate Bill 630 creates a 21-member Task Force on Disproportionality in Child Welfare Foster Care to study the reasons for the percentage difference between the number of children of certain racial and ethnic backgrounds in the child welfare foster care system compared to the number of those children in the general population, with the goal of correcting this disproportionality. The Task Force is directed to collect and analyze data and make recommendations that will assist in preventing the disproportionality. The Task Force is required to submit a report to the Legislative Assembly no later than October 1, 2010. The Task Force sunsets at the convening of the next regular biennial legislative session. Members of the Task Force serve as volunteers and are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses. The Department of Human Services is to provide staff support for the Task Force.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) anticipates performing extensive program and statistical research related to the social and environmental factors that may affect this disproportionality in child

welfare foster care. This work would require the expertise of one full-time Program Analyst 4 to analyze the programs, procedures and policies affecting foster care to report to the Task Force for deliberation and action. Total cost for DHS would be \$168,882 Other Funds from the Casey Family Programs. Through an agreement to improve child foster care practice and policy, the Department of Human Services has received \$472,000 Other Funds from the Casey Family Programs. The disbursement of these funds began in calendar year 2008. DHS anticipates receiving another \$185,000 from the Casey Family Programs in the first six months of the 2009-11 biennium. The limitation for these funds will be requested at the upcoming re-pricing (reshoot) of the department's 2009-11 proposed budget. \$168,882 of this Other Funds from the Casey Family Programs is specifically earmarked for work to correct the disproportionate number of children of certain racial and ethnic backgrounds in the child welfare foster care system compared to the number of those children in the general population.

Passage of this bill will have a minimal fiscal impact on the State Commission on Children and Families, the Oregon Youth Authority, the Oregon Judicial Department, and the Oregon University System. These agencies are each required to appoint one representative to the Task Force.

This bill requires budgetary action for the appropriation of Other Funds limitation.