

Senate Bill 153

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SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Creates Task Force on Disproportionality in Child Welfare Foster Care.
Sunsets task force on date of convening of next regular biennial legislative session.
Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to disproportionality in child welfare foster care; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) There is created the Task Force on Disproportionality in Child Welfare**
5 **Foster Care. The purpose of the task force is to study the reasons for the percentage dif-**
6 **ference between the number of children of certain racial or ethnic backgrounds in the child**
7 **welfare foster care system compared to the number of those children in the general popu-**
8 **lation and to address the disproportionality.**

9 **(2) The task force consists of 17 members and includes a majority of members from mi-**
10 **nority populations, including but not limited to minorities listed in ORS 430.347. The mem-**
11 **bers shall be appointed as follows:**

12 **(a) The President of the Senate shall appoint one member from among members of the**
13 **Senate.**

14 **(b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member from among**
15 **members of the House of Representatives.**

16 **(c) The Director of Human Services shall appoint 15 members as follows:**

17 **(A) One representative from the State Commission on Children and Families;**

18 **(B) Two representatives from the Department of Human Services who are experienced**
19 **in child welfare foster care;**

20 **(C) One representative from the Oregon Youth Authority from a list of persons submit-**
21 **ted by the Director of the Oregon Youth Authority;**

22 **(D) One representative from the Refugee Child Welfare Advisory Committee;**

23 **(E) One representative from a community mental health program or a drug or alcohol**
24 **treatment program;**

25 **(F) Three representatives from the general public, at least one of whom is African-**
26 **American and one of whom is from a federally recognized Oregon Indian tribe;**

27 **(G) One representative from the Judicial Department from a list of persons submitted**
28 **by the Judicial Department;**

29 **(H) One representative from the Oregon University System;**

30 **(I) Three representatives from child advocacy groups from a list of persons submitted**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 by child advocacy groups; and

2 (J) One representative from a minority population who is a foster parent of a child in the
3 child welfare foster care system.

4 (3) The task force shall develop a plan to reduce the disproportionality of minorities in
5 the child welfare foster care system.

6 (4) The task force may:

7 (a) Set specific goals to reduce the disproportionality of minorities in the child welfare
8 foster care system;

9 (b) Study, assess and recommend strategies to enhance recruitment and retention efforts
10 at the state and local levels to increase minority representation among foster parents,
11 caseworkers, supervisors and managers in the child welfare foster care system;

12 (c) Collect and analyze data to better assess the current and future concerns regarding
13 the disproportionality of minorities in the child welfare foster care system;

14 (d) Assess and make recommendations concerning the reduction of the disproportionality
15 of minorities in the child welfare foster care system;

16 (e) Assess and make recommendations concerning staff and community partner training
17 to reduce the disproportionality of minorities in the child welfare foster care system; and

18 (f) Assess and make recommendations that will assist in preventing the disproportional-
19 ity of minorities in the child welfare foster care system.

20 (5) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.

21 (6) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-
22 ment to become immediately effective.

23 (7) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson
24 or of a majority of the members of the task force.

25 (8) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

26 (9) Notwithstanding ORS 171.072, members of the task force who are members of the
27 Legislative Assembly are not entitled to mileage expenses or a per diem and serve as volun-
28 teers on the task force. Other members of the task force are not entitled to compensation
29 or reimbursement for expenses and serve as volunteers on the task force.

30 (10) The task force shall submit a report, and may include recommendations for legis-
31 lation, to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to human services as
32 appropriate no later than October 1, 2010.

33 (11) The Department of Human Services shall provide staff support to the task force.

34 (12) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist
35 the task force in the performance of its duties and, to the extent permitted by laws relating
36 to confidentiality, to furnish such information and advice as the members of the task force
37 consider necessary to perform their duties.

38 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this 2009 Act is repealed on the date of the convening of the next
39 regular biennial legislative session.

40 **SECTION 3.** This 2009 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
41 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2009 Act takes effect
42 on its passage.