

Senate Bill 630

Sponsored by Senator CARTER

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 purposes of the task force are to study the reasons for the percentage**
6 **difference between the number of children of certain racial or ethnic backgrounds in the**
7 **child welfare foster care system compared to the number of those children in the general**
8 **population, and to address the disproportionality.**

9 **(2) The task force consists of 21 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 Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall appoint one member from the Judicial**
17 **Department.**

18 **(d) The Director of Human Services shall appoint 18 members as follows:**

19 **(A) One representative of the State Commission on Children and Families;**

20 **(B) One representative of the education community;**

21 **(C) One representative of the Oregon Youth Authority from a list of persons submitted**
22 **by the Director of the Oregon Youth Authority;**

23 **(D) One representative of the Refugee Child Welfare Advisory Committee;**

24 **(E) One representative of a community mental health program or an alcohol or drug**
25 **treatment program;**

26 **(F) Three representatives of the general public, at least one of whom is African-American**
27 **and one of whom is Native American;**

28 **(G) One representative of the Oregon University System;**

29 **(H) Three representatives of child advocacy groups from a list of persons submitted by**
30 **child advocacy groups;**

31 **(I) Two representatives of a minority population, each of whom is or has been a foster**

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 parent of a child in the child welfare foster care system;

2 (J) One representative of the Public Defense Services Commission or of attorneys who
3 represent parents or children in juvenile dependency proceedings;

4 (K) One representative of a federally recognized Oregon Tribal Child Welfare program;

5 (L) One representative of a law enforcement agency; and

6 (M) One representative of the advisory committee on child welfare services created under
7 ORS 418.005.

8 (3) The task force shall study the reasons for, and develop a plan to reduce, the dispro-
9 portionalities of minorities in the child welfare foster care system.

10 (4) The task force may:

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

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

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

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

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

22 (f) Assess and make recommendations that will assist in preventing the disproportionality
23 of minorities in the child welfare foster care system.

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

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

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

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

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

34 (10) The task force shall submit a report that may include recommendations for legis-
35 lation to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to human services no
36 later than October 1, 2010.

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

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

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

44 **SECTION 3.** This 2009 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
45 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2009 Act takes effect

1 **on its passage.**

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