

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	4 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Kruse, Morse, Shields, Monnes Anderson
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Bates
Prepared By:	Brian Nieubuurt, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/27, 5/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Designates private residential boarding schools that provide academic education and therapeutic care as a “child-caring agency” subject to the licensure requirements of the Department of Human Services (DHS).

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Number of schools affected
- Functions of therapeutic boarding schools
- Recent problems at Oregon therapeutic boarding schools
- Current DHS authority to remove a child from therapeutic boarding school
- Judgment of state versus judgment of parents
- Investigative process

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Current Oregon law classifies therapeutic boarding schools as academic boarding schools. The statutes governing academic boarding schools include due process provisions that require hearing and corrective action prior to suspension of the school.

House Bill 2047 brings therapeutic boarding schools under the statutes governing child-caring agencies. These statutes allow DHS immediate suspensions without having prior hearing and corrective action. DHS indicates that the safety concerns in therapeutic boarding schools are more similar to child-caring agencies than academic boarding schools.