

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass and Be Placed on the Consent Calendar
Vote:	8 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Frederick, Greenlick, Harker, Parrish, Thompson, Weidner, Gilliam, Tomei
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Jennifer Kellar, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/4, 2/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Amends and aligns state statutory language for children who remain in child welfare custody to current federal statutory language. Removes “permanent foster care” as an option for an out-of-home placement for a ward in the substitute care of the Department of Human Services. Clarifies “another planned permanent living arrangement” as a permanency plan option for a ward in substitute care.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Discussion on the removal of the option of permanent foster care from state statute
- Discussion regarding the use of permanent foster care in Oregon Administrative Rule
- Legislative intent in use of permanent foster care language
- Legal permanency options for children under another planned permanent living arrangement
- Use of foster care as temporary versus permanent solution for children
- Definition change in Oregon Revised Statutes aligning with federal language for permanency options
- Discussion regarding possible amendment denoting permanent foster care as option under another planned permanent living arrangement
- Oregon’s high percentage rate of foster care children with another planned permanent living arrangement versus national rate due to permanent foster care designation

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Federal statutory language does not recognize permanent foster care as a legal option for children in foster care. Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 419A.004 currently contains definitions for permanent foster care and planned permanent living arrangement as two distinct forms of permanency. Elimination of the definition of permanent foster care and defining the federally approved definition of another planned permanent living arrangement would clarify that permanent foster care is not a permanency option under Oregon statutes.

Currently 21 percent of the children in Department of Human Services’ custody have a permanency plan designation of permanent foster care. This legal status prevents a child from obtaining a permanent legal family. Children in foster care without permanency decreases Oregon’s ability to achieve the national outcomes of reducing the length of time to permanency.