

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bates, Kruse, Morse, Shields, Monnes Anderson
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Brian Nieuburt, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Specifies that the Department of Human Services (DHS) may approve an application for a home study submitted by an Oregon resident seeking to adopt a child in the custody of DHS, a public child welfare agency in another state, or a public child welfare agency in another country. Specifies that DHS may approve an application for a home study submitted by an Oregon resident who is currently or has previously been under study or consideration by another public or private agency for placement of a child for adoption.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Potential for streamlining the adoption process
- Codification of current DHS rules

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The laws of every state require prospective parents to participate in a home study. This process has three purposes: (1) to educate and prepare the adoptive parent for adoption; (2) to evaluate the fitness of the adoptive family; and (3) to gather information about the prospective parents that will help a social worker connect the family with a child whose needs they can meet.

House Bill 2878-A allows potential adoptive parents to simultaneously pursue adoptions through DHS and an independent agency. The bill codifies in statute DHS' current practices which have been adopted in Oregon Administrative Rules, Chapter 413.