

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Without Recommendation as to Passage and Be Referred to the Committee on Rules

Vote: 8 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Frederick, Greenlick, Harker, Parrish, Thompson, Weidner, Gilliam, Tomei

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Jennifer Kellar, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 4/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide a racial impact statement for legislative measures impacting child welfare clients in Oregon; child welfare data about race and ethnicity of children in foster care system compared to general population; and require child welfare contractors to use a percentage of their contracted funds from DHS for racial or ethnic populations that is equal to the percentage of the racial or ethnic population served by the contract.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Review of measure

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Each year over the past five years, an average of 4,992 Oregon children were removed from their families as a result of abuse or neglect. Native American children in Oregon entered foster care at a rate 4.4 times higher than would be expected given the number of Native American children in the general population. African American children in Oregon entered foster care at a rate of 3.1 times higher than would be expected given the number of African American children in the general population.

In 2009, the Governor issued an executive order establishing a Child Welfare Equity Task Force composed of leaders from across the state. The Task Force was charged with submitting a report and recommendations to significantly reduce and eventually eliminate racial disproportionality.