

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
Vote:	8 - 1 - 0
Yeas:	Barton, Cameron, Garrett, Krieger, Olson, Tomei, Williamson, Barker
Nays:	Hicks
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Bill Taylor, Counsel
Meeting Dates:	3/18, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Department of Human Services to exercise due diligence to locate grandparents of a child who is before a court in a dependency matter where there is an allegation of abuse and neglect and the court is considering placing the child outside the home. Gives grandparents a right to be heard in a dependency matter involving a grandchild. Allows a grandparent visitation rights with a grandchild in dependency matter except in a termination of parental rights proceeding. Applies to proceedings commenced on or after the effective date of this Act.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Keeping connection with family especially grandparents is usually in the best interest of the child

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Does not give the grandparent a right to request visitation with a grandchild at a parental termination proceeding. Removes adoption proceedings from measure.

BACKGROUND: In Oregon, 28,000 grandparents have custody of their grandchildren. Currently, the Department of Human Services will give notice to a grandparent of a dependency proceeding involving a grandchild if the grandparent requests notice but not seek them out. Research shows that children placed with grandparents or other family members do better than when placed with strangers.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.