

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**  
**FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued**

---

<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
<b>Vote:</b>	5 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Knopp, Kruse, Shields, Steiner Hayward, Monnes Anderson
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Misty Freeman, Legislative Policy Intern
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	3/21, 4/11

---

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires Department of Human Services (DHS) adopt rules establishing Oregon Foster Children’s Bill of Rights. Directs DHS conduct periodic review to ensure bill of rights complies with principles outlined in measure. Requires DHS promote foster child involvement in state foster care and child welfare policy. Clarifies foster youth guaranteed rights under U.S. Constitution, federal law, Oregon constitution, state law, administrative law and case law. Directs DHS share age-appropriate information about court hearings and other rights within 60 days of placement. Updates list of contacts for foster youth under DHS purview. Removes restrictions on use of hotline. Applies to foster children in substitute care on or after effective date of act.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Oregon Foster Youth Connection 2012 conference
- Foster youth not familiar with their rights or process
- Personal experiences in foster care
- Oregon’s foster youth population
- System safeguards
- Foster Parents Bill of Rights
- Proposed amendment

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Clarifies foster youth guaranteed rights under U.S. Constitution, federal law, Oregon constitution, state law, administrative law and case law, in addition to rights in measure. Directs Department of Human Services (DHS) share age-appropriate information about court hearings and other rights, to provide information within 60 days of placement. Updates list of contacts for foster youth under DHS purview. Removes restrictions on use of hotline.

**BACKGROUND:** In July 2012, the Oregon Foster Youth Connection, a program of the nonprofit child advocacy organization Children First for Oregon, held a three-day policy-focused foster youth summit. During the summit, foster youth identified the need for the state of Oregon to guarantee their basic rights while in state care. On the final day of the summit, a group of 30 current and former foster youth from around the state presented a set of policy recommendations that included the adoption and promotion of an Oregon Foster Children’s Bill of Rights. The bill seeks to ensure that rights to things like safety, clothes that fit, proper nutrition, and contact with their siblings are communicated to foster youth and substitute care providers, and that foster youth have a safe means to report violations through the hotline.

4/17/2013 1:30:00 PM

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