

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	9 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Barton, Cameron, Garrett, Hicks, Krieger, Olson, Tomei, Williamson, Barker
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Bill Taylor, Counsel
Meeting Dates:	5/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Adopts new rules clarifying access for court records in adoption cases. Creates Segregated Adoption Summary and Segregated Information Statement holding the most sensitive information to be filed with the adoption petition.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Courts are moving toward electronic records
- Open records adoptions
- Searching for blood relatives particularly for medical histories

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Senate Bill 623 A is sponsored by the Oregon Law Commission and is a product of the work group report on adoption records. The work group was convened to work on the problem that Oregon statutes can currently be read to preclude judges and staff from reviewing a court adoption file without a court order. In addition, due to ORS 7.211, parties in an adoption case cannot review their own case file absent a court order which creates difficulty with pending cases. On the other hand, some information is very sensitive and should be restricted but that restriction should be balanced with the need for access for appeals and continued adoption services. Senate Bill 623 A allows access to an adoption file short of a court order in certain circumstances.

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