

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Krieger  
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Winters

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Fiscal:** Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

**Action:** Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure

**Vote:** 24 – 0 – 2

House

Yeas: Barker, Buckley, Frederick, Freeman, Hanna, Huffman, Jenson, Komp, McLane, Nathanson, Read, Richardson, Tomei, Williamson

Nays:

Exc: Smith

Senate

Yeas: Devlin, Edwards, Girod, Hansell, Monroe, Rosenbaum, Steiner Hayward, Thomsen, Whitsett, Winters

Nays:

Exc: Bates

**Prepared By:** Laurie Byerly, Legislative Fiscal Office

**Meeting Date:** May 24, 2013

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**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:**

- Specific types of situations addressed by the bill
- Recognition of how email or other “non-visitation” contact can help support relationship between child and grandparent

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**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.