

House Bill 2591

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of House Interim Committee on Judiciary)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Establishes Task Force on Foster Care Alternatives.
Sunsets July 1, 2015.
Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to children in foster care; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Task Force on Foster Care Alternatives is established, consisting of**
5 **members appointed as follows:**

6 (a) **The President of the Senate shall appoint one member from among members of the**
7 **Senate, who shall cease being a member of the task force upon ceasing to be a member of**
8 **the Legislative Assembly.**

9 (b) **The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member from among**
10 **members of the House of Representatives, who shall cease being a member of the task force**
11 **upon ceasing to be a member of the Legislative Assembly.**

12 (c) **The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall appoint one member.**

13 (d) **The Board of Governors of the Oregon State Bar shall appoint one member.**

14 (e) **The Governor shall appoint members as follows:**

15 (A) **Two from the Department of Human Services, one of whom has expertise in foster**
16 **care services;**

17 (B) **One from an advocacy organization representing the rights of children in foster care;**
18 **and**

19 (C) **One from an advocacy organization representing foster care parents in this state.**

20 (f) **The Governor shall appoint such other members as the task force deems necessary.**

21 (2) **The task force shall have its first meeting on or before the later of 90 days after**
22 **adjournment sine die of the 2013 regular session of the Seventy-seventh Legislative Assem-**
23 **bly, or September 30, 2013.**

24 (3) **The task force shall study and make recommendations on:**

25 (a) **Alternatives to placing children who are in the custody of the Department of Human**
26 **Services into foster care;**

27 (b) **Sources and uses of available state and federal funding for alternative placement**
28 **options to foster care;**

29 (c) **The "Community Homes for Children" model or other, similar models for providing**
30 **safe, stable, nurturing homes for children who have emotional and behavioral problems;**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (d) "Wrap around supports" for children that allow children to remain in their homes and
2 communities instead of being placed into foster care;

3 (e) Protective factors that can be implemented and promoted in high poverty communi-
4 ties so as to avoid displacement of children who are in the department's custody or are wards
5 of the court; and

6 (f) Any other issues or concerns identified by the task force that would provide support
7 to vulnerable families and children who are facing foster care placement.

8 (4) A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction
9 of business.

10 (5) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the members
11 of the task force.

12 (6) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.

13 (7) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-
14 ment to become immediately effective.

15 (8) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson
16 or of a majority of the members of the task force.

17 (9) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

18 (10) The task force shall make a report, and may include recommendations for legis-
19 lation, to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to child welfare no later
20 than October 1, 2014.

21 (11) The task force may accept donations of staff support, office space and equipment
22 from any advocacy organization to assist the task force in the performance of its duties.

23 (12) Notwithstanding ORS 171.072, members of the task force who are members of the
24 Legislative Assembly are not entitled to mileage expenses or a per diem and serve as volun-
25 teers on the task force. Other members of the task force are not entitled to compensation
26 or reimbursement for expenses and serve as volunteers on the task force.

27 (13) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist
28 the task force in the performance of its duties and, to the extent permitted by laws relating
29 to confidentiality, to furnish such information and advice as the members of the task force
30 consider necessary to perform their duties.

31 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this 2013 Act is repealed on July 1, 2015.

32 **SECTION 3.** This 2013 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
33 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2013 Act takes effect
34 on its passage.

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