

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2365 and HB 2366
BEFORE THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
April 07, 2015**

**PRESENTED BY: Samantha Benton, Juvenile and Family Court Programs Division,
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HB 2365 and HB 2366 are part of ongoing work by the Oregon Law Commission Adoption Records Work Group, building on two previous bills that clarify adoption records procedures - HB 1536 (2014), and SB 623 (2013). The Oregon Judicial Department thanks the Oregon Law Commission for their work on these bills, and the Adoption Records Work Group members for their tireless work to bring the bills together.

These bills will make adoption records access easier for adoptees, adoptive parents, birth parents, and the courts.

HB 2365, with the -3 amendment, streamlines adoption records retention and access. The amendment:

- §§8 amends ORS 21.135 to exclude readoptions (when parties readopt a child after adopting in a foreign nation), and allows for petitioners of multiple concurrently filed adoptions on separate petitions to be charged only one fee.
- §§9 clarifies readoption procedures, and allows petitioners for multiple concurrently filed adoptions on separate petitions to be charged one filing fee only.
- Removes the emergency clause to allow time for implementation.

HB 2366, with the -2 amendment, modifies adoption fee statutes, and clarifies when a birth parent is charged for filing a motion for adoption records. The amendment removes the emergency clause to allow time for implementation.

These bills clarify adoption records processes. The removal of the emergency clauses will allow the Oregon Judicial Department to update fee schedules during the regular yearly cycle, greatly reducing the administrative burden of out-of-cycle fee changes.