

**PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Workforce

**REVENUE: No revenue impact****FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued****SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Matthew Germer, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 3/4

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Considers foster parents as public employees for the purpose of labor organization. Prohibits foster parents from striking. Designates appropriate bargaining unit for foster parents.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Professionalization of foster care
- Foster parent reimbursement
- Political coordination of foster parents
- Support sought by foster parents
- Outside income requirements for foster parents

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

(-2) Replaces measure. Creates task force to study and report on qualifications, recruitment, training, support, screening, compensation and oversight of foster parents.

**BACKGROUND:** Children are placed in foster care for different reasons. Sometimes their families cannot provide them with the basic safety and protection they need. Many have also faced experiences with parental substance abuse, sexual or physical abuse, and abandonment. The Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) places foster children in the homes of willing foster parents. Foster parents are provided compensation for food, clothing, housing, personal incidentals, and transportation ranging from \$575 to \$850 per month based on the age and needs of the child.

Senate Bill 311 defines foster parents as public employees for the purpose of labor organization and prohibits foster parents from striking.