

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

**Fiscal:** No Fiscal Impact

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:** 03/30/15

**Action:** Do Pass.

**Meeting Dates:** 03/18, 03/30

**Vote:**

Yeas: 8 - Evans, Gallegos, Hayden, Keny-Guyer, Parrish, Piluso, Stark, Taylor

Exc: 1 - Buehler

**Prepared By:** Robyn Johnson, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Allows Department of Human Services to add genetic siblings of adoptees to voluntary adoption search registry. Defines rules for addition of and search for minor siblings on registry. Allows sharing certain types of information electronically.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Adoption search and registry program
- Sharing of adoption records

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Department of Human Services (DHS), through Oregon's Adoption Search and Registry Program maintains record of all adoptions that have finalized in Oregon since 1920. The adoption registries have three components: consent for mutual contact, non-identifying health and social information and assisted search. The program is confidential. Currently, the following people may place themselves on the registry: An adult adoptee (aged 18 or older), birth parents, a putative (alleged) father, an adult genetic sibling of an adoptee, an adoptive parent of a deceased adoptee, a parent or adult sibling of a deceased birth parent. Minor adoptees cannot currently register.

House Bill 2414 allows parents of minor genetic siblings to register with the adoption registry program. It lifts the restrictions on searches made in the cases of a deceased adoptee, birth parents and their descendants. The bill also allows DHS or its contractor to provide information regarding the finalization of an adoption. The bill allows searches to be conducted and information to be shared electronically.