

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/08/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 03/16, 04/08

Vote:

Yeas: 9 - Buehler, Evans, Gallegos, Hayden, Keny-Guyer, Parrish, Piluso, Stark, Taylor

Prepared By: Robyn Johnson, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Department of Human Services to provide for participation in extracurricular activities for children in its care, in coordination with agencies and foster parents. Defines “extracurricular activities.” Defines “reasonable and prudent parenting standards.”

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Social and emotional development of foster youth
- Leadership opportunities for foster youth
- Developmentally appropriate activities

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Defines “extracurricular activities.” Defines “reasonable and prudent parenting standards.”

BACKGROUND:

More than 8,000 children are currently in the foster care system in the state of Oregon. For those who are school aged, access to extracurricular activities is not always possible due to a variety of barriers, including fees and transportation. Activities such as drama, sports, music, debate, fine arts, science club, student government, and others, don’t merely add to a child’s educational and social experience, but are critical to overall physical, social, emotional and academic development. Extracurricular activities are also important avenues for exploration and self-expression.

House Bill 2890-A directs the Department of Human Services to allow for and support foster youth participation in developmentally appropriate extracurricular activities.