

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services and Early Childhood

**Fiscal:** No Fiscal Impact

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

**Action Date:** 05/14/15

**Action:** Do Pass.

**Meeting Dates:** 05/05, 05/14

**Vote:**

Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Gelser, Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Olsen

**Prepared By:** Cheyenne Ross, 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:**

- Operation of Adoption Search and Registry
- Voluntary participation
- Persons seeking information; and outreach to persons being sought
- Provider role to assist informed decision making, but not mediate or facilitate contacts

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Department of Human Services (DHS), through Oregon's Adoption Search and Registry Program, maintains records of all adoptions that have finalized in Oregon since 1920. The adoption registry has 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: adult adoptees (age 18 and up), birth parents, putative fathers, adult genetic siblings of adoptees, adoptive parents of deceased adoptees, and parents or adult siblings of deceased birth parents. Minor adoptees cannot currently register.

House Bill 2414 allows parents of minor genetic siblings to register with the adoption registry program and lifts restrictions on searches made in cases of deceased adoptees, birth parents, and their descendants. The measure also allows DHS or its contractor to provide information regarding the finalization of an adoption, and permits electronic searches and information sharing.