

House Bill 3426

Sponsored by Representatives GALLEGOS, HACK

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Directs Department of Human Services to establish up to three community homes to implement community home model for children and wards in legal custody of department for care, placement and supervision. Authorizes department to contract with one or more nonprofit entities to establish community homes and provide services.

Requires department to evaluate community homes and report to Legislative Assembly on or before December 31, 2016.

Appropriates moneys to department to establish community homes.

Sunsets June 30, 2017.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to support services provided to foster families; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. The Legislative Assembly finds that:**

5 **(1) The community home model for placement of children and wards who are in the legal**
6 **custody of the Department of Human Services is a viable and compelling alternative place-**
7 **ment option to traditional foster care placements; and**

8 **(2) Pilot projects to establish up to three community homes that will implement the**
9 **community home model throughout this state will provide the department with the oppor-**
10 **tunity to evaluate the success and effectiveness of the community home model as an alter-**
11 **native placement option for children and wards in the legal custody of the department.**

12 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in sections 1 and 2 of this 2015 Act:**

13 **(a) "Community home" means a facility that implements and utilizes the community**
14 **home model for the placement of children and wards in the legal custody of the department.**

15 **(b) "Community home model" means a model for placement of a child or ward who is in**
16 **the legal custody of the Department of Human Services in a community home with other**
17 **children and wards, where the foster parent for the child or ward comes to the community**
18 **home to provide foster parent services and in which the child or ward and the foster parent**
19 **for the child or ward may receive one or more of the following services:**

20 **(A) Mentoring;**

21 **(B) Tutoring;**

22 **(C) One-on-one supervision;**

23 **(D) Respite care;**

24 **(E) Assistance in locating immediate and extended family members;**

25 **(F) 24-hour, daily on-call caregiver support;**

26 **(G) Skill building;**

27 **(H) Counseling;**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (I) Parent education and training;

2 (J) Foster parent education and training;

3 (K) Assistance in establishing support systems with neighbors; and

4 (L) Family-centered interventions, including but not limited to drug, alcohol and mental
5 health treatment.

6 (2) The department shall establish up to three community homes to implement the
7 community home model in this state for children and wards who have been placed in the
8 legal custody of the department for care, placement and supervision under ORS 419B.337.

9 (3) The department may contract with one or more nonprofit entities to establish and
10 implement the community homes and provide the community home model services required.

11 (4) The department shall study and perform an evaluation of the community homes es-
12 tablished, and the community home model implemented, under subsection (2) of this section.
13 The evaluation shall include but not be limited to a comparison of placement outcomes for
14 children and wards in the community homes as compared to children and wards in tradi-
15 tional foster homes, including but not limited to the following:

16 (a) The length of time a child or ward remains in a community home;

17 (b) The impact on a child's or ward's educational achievement and success;

18 (c) Emotional and social stability factors for children, wards and foster parents; and

19 (d) Factors that would impact the ability to replicate the community home model
20 throughout this state.

21 (5)(a) The department and a nonprofit entity with which the department has contracted
22 under this section may solicit and accept gifts, grants and donations from public and private
23 sources to further the purposes of this section.

24 (b) Moneys obtained by a nonprofit entity pursuant to solicitation and acceptance of gifts,
25 grants and donations by the nonprofit entity may be maintained, controlled and used for any
26 purpose deemed appropriate by the nonprofit entity to further the purposes of this section
27 without informing or obtaining the consent and approval of the department to receive and
28 use the moneys.

29 (c) The department may use any available state and federal funds that the department
30 deems appropriate to implement the provisions of this section.

31 (6) The department may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this section.

32 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Human Services shall prepare and submit a report to the
33 standing and interim committees of the Legislative Assembly that have authority over the
34 subject areas of child welfare and juvenile dependency on or before December 31, 2016.

35 **SECTION 4.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
36 ated to the Department of Human Services, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, out of
37 the General Fund, the amount of \$120,000, which may be expended for the purposes of im-
38 plementing section 2 of this 2015 Act.

39 **SECTION 5.** Section 2 of this 2015 Act applies to children or wards who are in the legal
40 custody of the Department of Human Services for care, placement and supervision before,
41 on or after the effective date of this 2015 Act.

42 **SECTION 6.** Sections 1 and 2 of this 2015 Act are repealed on June 30, 2017.

43 **SECTION 7.** This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
44 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect
45 on its passage.

