

Minority Report
A-Engrossed
Senate Bill 311

Ordered by the Senate April 23
Including Senate Minority Report Amendments dated April 23

Sponsored by nonconcurring members of the Senate Committee on Workforce: Senators KNOPP, THATCHER

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.

[Establishes foster parents as public employees for purposes of labor organization activities. Prohibits foster parents from striking. Designates appropriate bargaining unit for foster parents.]

Establishes Task Force on Supporting and Improving Foster Parenting in Oregon to study and make recommendations on foster care program quality and workforce issues related to provision of foster care.

Requires task force to submit initial report to Legislative Assembly no later than February 15, 2016.

Sunsets December 31, 2016.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to foster care; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. (1) The Task Force on Supporting and Improving Foster Parenting in Oregon is established, consisting of 16 members appointed as follows:

(a) The President of the Senate shall appoint one member from among members of the Senate.

(b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member from among members of the House of Representatives.

(c) The Senate Minority Leader shall appoint one member from among members of the Senate.

(d) The House Minority Leader shall appoint one member from among members of the House of Representatives.

(e) The Governor shall appoint seven members as follows:

(A) Two members who are foster parents;

(B) Two representatives from community child welfare organizations;

(C) Two members, one of whom is a current foster youth and one of whom is a former foster youth; and

(D) One member who is an attorney who represents the interests of foster children.

(f) The Director of Human Services shall appoint two members as follows:

(A) One member who is employed as a manager in the Department of Human Services and who trains department employees; and

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 (B) One member who is a foster care ombudsman.

2 (g) The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall appoint three members as follows:

3 (A) One member who is a juvenile court judge;

4 (B) One member who is a court appointed special advocate; and

5 (C) One member representing the citizen review board state administrative office or local
6 citizen review boards.

7 (2) The task force shall study and make recommendations on foster care program quality
8 and workforce issues related to the provision of foster care, including but not limited to:

9 (a) Qualifications of foster parents;

10 (b) Strategies for recruiting more foster parents;

11 (c) Services provided by foster parents;

12 (d) Training and ongoing support for foster parents, including trauma care;

13 (e) Improved screening of foster parents;

14 (f) The legal relationship of foster parents with the Department of Human Services and
15 other state agencies;

16 (g) Compensation of foster parents;

17 (h) Oversight of foster parents; and

18 (i) Recommendations for placing foster youth with the foster parents that are the best
19 match for the foster youth.

20 (3) A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction
21 of business.

22 (4) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the members
23 of the task force.

24 (5) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.

25 (6) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-
26 ment to become immediately effective.

27 (7) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson
28 or of a majority of the members of the task force.

29 (8) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

30 (9)(a) The task force shall submit a report, and may include recommendations for legis-
31 lation, to the standing committees of the Legislative Assembly with subject matter jurisdic-
32 tion of child welfare no later than February 15, 2016, regarding the progress of the task force.

33 (b) The task force shall submit a final report, and may include recommendations for
34 legislation, to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly with subject matter ju-
35 risdiction of child welfare no later than October 15, 2016, regarding the findings and recom-
36 mendations of the task force.

37 (10) The Department of Human Services shall provide staff support to the task force.

38 (11) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are not
39 entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses the members incur in performing
40 the members' official duties. Members of the task force who are members of the Legislative
41 Assembly shall receive compensation and reimbursement for expenses as provided in ORS
42 171.072.

43 (12) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist
44 the task force in the performance of its duties and, to the extent permitted by laws relating
45 to confidentiality, to furnish such information and advice as the members of the task force

1 **consider necessary to perform their duties.**

2 **SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2015 Act is repealed on December 31, 2016.**

3 **SECTION 3. This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
4 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect**
5 **on its passage.**

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