

**FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

**Measure: HB 2216 - 5**

79th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2017 Regular Session  
Legislative Fiscal Office

***Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed  
Versions are Considered Official***

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**Measure Description:**

Requires Department of Human Services to adopt rules to establish Oregon Foster Children's Sibling Bill of Rights.

**Government Unit(s) Affected:**

Department of Human Services (DHS)

**Analysis:**

House Bill 2216 directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to adopt rules to establish the Oregon Foster Children’s Siblings Bill of Rights. In adopting these rules, DHS must ensure the participation of current and former foster children with siblings. DHS is mandated to periodically review these rules to ensure compliance. DHS must ensure that foster children with siblings have certain essential rights including the right to:

- Obtain substitute care placement together whenever possible and appropriate.
- Maintain contact with siblings, including being provided transportation in order to visit siblings.
- Be placed with foster parents who are trained on the importance of sibling relationships.
- Ensure contact with siblings will be encouraged in any adoptive or guardianship placement.
- Have a sibling contact plan developed with active engagement and participation of siblings.
- Have more private and less restrictive communication with siblings.
- Be notified in a timely manner of placement changes or catastrophic events affecting siblings.

The - 5 amendment specifies that nothing in this bill is intended to affect the application of the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Department of Human Services (DHS)

Substitute care placements together, visits with siblings, sibling contact plan, and least restrictive communication are already current practice for DHS, and these provisions of the bill will not have a fiscal impact on the agency.

However, the comprehensive fiscal impact of this bill on DHS is indeterminate because the agency cannot predict the cost of providing transportation to visitations. The impact on this expense (including personnel costs and work time for someone to accompany foster children too young to travel alone) would depend on the number of siblings who live in other parts of the state or out of state.