

SB 830 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

Prepared By: Matt Doumit, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/8, 3/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies definition of foster parent who is “current caretaker” of ward to include those currently caring for ward and who cared for ward or ward’s sibling for 12 cumulative months or cumulatively one half of ward's or sibling's life when ward or sibling is under age two.

FISCAL: Minimal Expenditure Impact

REVENUE: No Revenue Impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Implementation of current statute
- Provisions of measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Under Oregon law and Department of Human Services (DHS) administrative rules, “current caretakers” are foster parents that have a long-term relationship with a ward and can get a higher priority as a potential adoptive parent for the child. Statute defines “current caretakers” as foster parents who: (1) currently care for a ward in custody of DHS that has a permanency plan or concurrent adoption plan; and (2) have cared for the ward or ward’s sibling for the previous 12 consecutive months, or has cared for the ward or sibling at least half of the ward's or sibling’s life when the ward or sibling is less than two years old. Cases have arisen where an otherwise long-term foster parent has had their "current caretaker" adoption priority removed because of a break in their consecutive months of care for a foster child they wish to adopt.

Senate Bill 830 modifies the definition of “current caretaker” to allow for cumulative calculation of a foster parent’s time spent caring for a ward or ward’s sibling. The measure’s definition includes foster parents who have cared for a ward or ward’s sibling for a cumulative 12 months (rather than only the immediately preceding 12 consecutive months) or foster parents that have cared for half of a ward or sibling’s life, if the child is under two years old, with that time calculated cumulatively.