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March 21, 2017
House Early Childhood and Family Supports Committee
HB 2260 and -2 Amendments

Background: The Office of Child Care (OCC) supports families through a statewide child care system that promotes safe, quality, and accessible child care. Licensing staff in nine field offices are responsible for inspecting child care facilities, assessing and investigating complaints against facilities, and providing technical assistance to child care providers. In addition to licensing child care, OCC supports families seeking information on child care facilities and providers.

Oregon statutes designate the Office of Child Care as the state agency responsible for administering funds received by the State of Oregon pursuant to the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant Act (ORS 329A.010).

Need for HB 2260:

The federal Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 imposed new requirements for states to publicly disseminate information on child care facilities and to provide a consumer-friendly website for parents, providers and the general public and outlines website requirements for dissemination of information. The Early Learning Division does not have general authority under existing Oregon law to disseminate information including authority to disseminate information through electronic, web-based medium.

The Early Learning Division does not have general authority under existing law to maintain the confidentiality of individuals filing complaints with the OCC or to share confidential information with other public entities when necessary to support and protect the health, safety and welfare of children. Protecting the identity of complainants supports the OCC in accomplishing its duties of protecting the health and safety of children and in investigating serious complaints.

HB 2260 revises Oregon statutes in response to the new federal requirements.

- Requires the Office of Child Care to maintain a website and disseminate information required under federal law.
- Protects the identity of an individual making a complaint.
- Allows the Office of Child Care to maintain records electronically for the Central Background Registry.
- Authorizes the Office of Child Care to share information with other public entities in order to support the health or safety of children in child care.

Need for Amendments: -2 Amendments

- ❖ Provides general authority to the Office of Child Care to maintain information about child care facilities and providers through electronic records systems.

- ❖ Deletes revisions to ORS 329A.030 as those changes are handled in HB 2259-3.
- ❖ Specifies that the name, address and other identifying information about a complainant may not be disclosed.
- ❖ Specifies that the Office of Child Care may share information about investigations and inspections with other public entities.
- ❖ Makes changes to 329A.310 and 329A.992 to correct cross references.

