

SB 314 -1, -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

Prepared By: Matt Doumit, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/22, 4/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Early Learning Division (OELD) to establish Relief Nursery programs in all counties to provide services to “at-risk” children. Requires programs be certified by Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries (OARN). Describes requirements for use of funds. Requires OELD to enter contracts with Relief Nursery programs. Excludes statutory forfeiture proceeds from calculation of community matching funds. Defines terms.

FISCAL: May Have Fiscal Impact, But No Statement Yet Issued

REVENUE: May Have Revenue Impact, But No Statement Yet Issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History, growth, and level of progress in relief nursery system
- Necessity of performance measures and ensuring good return on state investment in system
- Services offered at relief nurseries
- Impact of relief nurseries on vulnerable families and children
- Possible amendment

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Modifies definition of “Relief Nursery program.” Removes definition of “Trauma-informed services” and mandate to provide such services. Clarifies funding for certified programs may include administrative costs and specified direct service costs. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

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REVENUE: May Have Revenue Impact, But No Statement Yet Issued

-3 Modifies definition of “Relief Nursery program,” including tracking through OARN database. Removes definition of “Trauma-informed services” and mandate to provide such services. Requires relief nurseries programs to be consistent with early learning system. Requires relief nursery programs participate in OARN statewide evaluation. Clarifies funding for certified programs may include administrative costs and specified direct service costs. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

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BACKGROUND:

Relief nursery programs provide early childhood support services to low income parents and children at risk of child abuse or neglect. They are intended to reduce the risk factors that contribute to child abuse or neglect, improve family stability, improve parenting abilities, and support child development. Per the Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries (OARN), there are 15 “mature” relief nurseries in the state and eight satellite programs.

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Oregon law requires the Oregon Early Learning Division (OELD) to support relief nursery programs as funding becomes available and encourages communities to develop new relief nursery programs. Relief nurseries are required include therapeutic early childhood programs and parental education and support. They are also required to be consistent with the early learning system and have parents of relief nursery children involved in the program. Statute also requires programs to get matching funds from the local community equal to 25 percent of any state funding.

Senate Bill 314 directs OELD to establish relief nursery programs in each county of the state as funding becomes available, and requires each program to be certified by OARN. It specifies how OELD's relief nursery funds can be spent, and requires that programs participate in statewide independent evaluations. The measure also excludes statutory forfeiture proceeds to relief nursery programs from the calculation of community matching funds.