

HB 2500 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/9, 2/16, 4/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Department of Human Services to develop and implement caseworker training and continuing education informing and instructing on juvenile dependency proceedings. Requires instruction and materials on engaging in legal practices and parameters from juvenile dependency judges and attorneys. Requires continuing education for caseworkers every two years.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Contents of the measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 Directs Department of Human Services (DHS) to consult with the Department of Justice to develop and implement training and continuing education for DHS caseworkers. Changes requirement for training to occur every 4 years. Changes instruction from judges to Department of Justice. Removes the Attorney General from providing instruction and materials.

BACKGROUND:

Child welfare staff across Oregon counties may perform multiple legal functions with dependency proceedings. Caseworkers in juvenile court proceedings have prepared petitions, affidavits, drafted court orders, and presented the Department of Human Services' position in court.

House Bill 2500 directs the Department of Human Services to develop and implement caseworker training and continuing education informing and instructing on juvenile dependency proceedings. The bill requires instruction and materials for caseworkers engaging in legal practices and parameters from juvenile dependency judges and attorneys. HB 2500 requires continuing education for juvenile dependency caseworkers every two years.