

SB 749 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

Prepared By: Matt Doumit, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/8, 4/12, 4/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits child, ward, youth, or youth offender in legal custody of Department of Human Services (collectively “young person”) who is age 12 or older to receive new assignment of caseworker upon request. Permits young person who is age 14 to be provided access to own confidential information upon request, and to be allowed to sign own release of information. Specifies when young person must be provided with information regarding rights.

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

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Access to DHS records for foster youth and foster youth with mental health issues
- Existing rights to information and records covered by measure for release
- Importance of stability in caseworker assignments
- Provisions of measure
- Possible amendments

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Replaces provisions. Permits child, ward, youth, or youth offender in legal custody of DHS (collectively "young person") who is age 15 or older to be provided access to own confidential information upon request, and to be allowed to sign own release of information. Defines terms.

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

REVENUE: No Revenue Impact

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law does not provide a mechanism for a child, ward, youth, or youth offender (collectively “young person”) in the legal custody of the Department of Human Services (DHS) to request a new caseworker if the young person has been unable to develop a positive relationship with their currently assigned caseworker. There is also no mechanism for a young person to access their own confidential records without the permission of DHS staff.

Senate Bill 749 permits a young person who is age 12 or older and in legal custody of DHS, who has already been assigned a caseworker, to request a new caseworker. DHS is required to provide a new caseworker within 15 days of the request if the young person states they have been unable to develop a positive relationship with their assigned caseworker. The measure also permits a young person, who is age 14 or older and in custody of DHS, to have access to their own confidential information maintained by DHS upon request. It also entitles a young person to sign their own release of information for use in getting assistance. Senate Bill 749 also specifies when DHS is to inform a young person about their rights under the measure.