

HB 2216 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

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Meeting Dates: 4/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes specified rights for foster children. Directs Department of Human Services (DHS) to adopt rules establishing the Oregon Foster Children’s Sibling Bill of Rights. Directs DHS to review the rules periodically and promote participation of current and former foster children in developing the rules.

FISCAL: Fiscal Impact Issued

REVENUE: No Revenue Impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, Oregon statute has established the Foster Children’s Bill of Rights (ORS 418.202) and the Foster Parent’s Bill of Rights (ORS 418.648). These statutes are designed to inform foster children and foster parents of their rights within the child welfare system.

House Bill 2216-A directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to establish the Foster Children’s Sibling Bill of Rights. It outlines essential rights for siblings who are foster children including placements together, communication guidance, and training for foster parents and child caring agencies on sibling relationships. The measure also establishes legislative policies that siblings in foster care should be involved in developing sibling contact plans, that foster children should receive a document outlining rights, and that a foster child can request the foster child's attorney advocate for contact and visitation with siblings. HB 2216-A also specifies that the measure does not affect the application of the Indian Child Welfare Act.