

HB 2216 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

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Meeting Dates: 4/19, 4/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes specified rights for foster youth. 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:

- Role of siblings in family stability for foster youth
- Consideration of sibling placement and contact in foster care decisions
- Implementation and enforcement mechanisms for "bill of rights"
- Current sibling placement procedures

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law establishes 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 youth, 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 youth can request the foster youth'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.