

SB 245 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

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Meeting Dates: 4/25, 5/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Clarifies definition of “child” for purposes of statutes governing child-caring agencies. Modifies definition of “child-caring agency” to exclude facilities only serving persons over age 18 and facilities that require children to be accompanied by guardian.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Clarifies definition of child-caring agency
- Lack of clarity on what is and what is not a child-caring agency
- Exclusion of facilities exclusively providing services to children 18-21 years old

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Current Oregon law includes all “unmarried person[s] under 21 years of age” in the definition of “child” for the purposes of the statutes governing child-caring agencies. In the same section, the current definition of “child-caring agency” explicitly excludes licensed residential facilities and certified foster homes serving developmentally disabled children, respite services, youth job development organizations, certain shelter-care homes, and other foster homes.

Senate Bill 245 amends the definition of “child” to include only persons under age 21 that receive services from child-caring agencies. Senate Bill 245 also specifically exempts facilities that serve only people over the age of 18 and those that only serve children accompanied by a custodial parent or guardian from the definition of “child-caring agency.”