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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 513A For the House Committee on Judiciary May 23, 2017

Submitted by:

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This testimony is submitted in support of Senate Bill 513A.

How This Bill Changes Current Law

Senate Bill 513A amends ORS 25.650 by removing the requirement that the administrator provide 10 days' prior notice to parents who pay or receive support (an obligor or obligee, respectively) that a consumer report will be requested by the administrator of the Oregon Child Support Program. Federal law has removed this requirement. This legislation also expands the circumstances in which the Oregon Department of Justice may request a consumer report for a party to a child support case. Current law allows the Program to request a consumer report only for the purpose of establishing or modifying a support order. The statutory changes proposed would expand the authority to request consumer reports for purposes of determining an individual's capacity to make child support payments, determining the appropriate level of such payments, or enforcing a support order, and they would allow the Program to seek reports for anyone whose parentage has been established.

This legislation will increase Oregon Child Support Program access to consumer reporting information; improving the accuracy of child support orders and the Program's ability to collect. Overall operating postage may be reduced due to the Program no longer having to send notices by certified or registered mail before requesting consumer reports.

Key Points of Legislation

- Removes requirement to send 10-day notice by certified or registered mail before requesting a consumer report because no longer required by 15 USC 1681b.

- Adds purposes for which the Oregon Child Support Program can request a consumer report as allowed by federal law.
- Updates terminology to refer to “parentage” rather than “paternity” to make consumer reports available for all legal parents regardless of gender.

Fiscal Impact

None.

Fiscal Benefits

Has potential to reduce cost to the Oregon Child Support Program of certified or registered mail.

Recommended Action

The Oregon Department of Justice recommends committee approval of Senate Bill 513A to improve the accuracy of child support orders and the Child Support Program’s ability to collect child support, to remove a requirement no longer in federal law, and to provide for access to information allowed by federal law.