



## **HB 2344 – Update to Independent Living Subsidy Program Requirements**

**Concept:** To provide the housing options necessary to allow foster youth to exit the foster care system fully prepared and able to have the financial resources necessary to make a successful transition to adulthood.

**Need for policy change:** Currently the Independent Living Subsidy (aka Subsidy) Program is limited to 12 months and requires full-time productive activity (school, work or combination of the two). HB 2344 changes will allow the Subsidy Program to provide assistance for up to 24 to 30 months to foster youth/young adults in transition from a foster care placement to their own residence. HB 2344 will also allow more flexibility of the productive activities requirement to better meet the individual needs and abilities of each youth.

**Impact if not approved:** Without the changes allowing a youth to qualify or remain in the program, youth may need to drop out of school or risk becoming homeless until they can locate full-time employment to afford housing. Without the ability to continue their education or training, the odds significantly decrease for former foster youth to obtain employment that pays a living wage.

DHS Self-Sufficiency Programs could see an increase in the number of young adults accessing food stamps and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). If youth are not able to locate or maintain a job, youth may resort to illegal means to meet their financial responsibilities. Additional foster care placements would be needed to meet the need of children and youth remaining in foster care.

**Fiscal Impact:** No fiscal impact is anticipated

**Contact:**

Laurie Price, Child Well-Being Program Manager

Office of Child Welfare

503-945-6953

[laurie.price@state.or.us](mailto:laurie.price@state.or.us)

Cynthia Stinson, Legislative Coordinator

Public Affairs

503-508-5990

[cynthia.j.stinson@state.or.us](mailto:cynthia.j.stinson@state.or.us)