

SB 830 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Gelser

Senate Committee On Human Services

Action Date: 03/15/17

Action: Do pass.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Gelser, Knopp, Monnes Anderson, Olsen

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies definition of foster parent who is “current caretaker” of foster child to include those currently caring for child and who cared for child or child’s sibling for 12 cumulative months or cumulatively one-half of child's or sibling's life when child or sibling is under age two.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Implementation of current statute
- Provisions of measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Under current Oregon law and Department of Human Services (DHS) administrative rules, a “current caretaker” is a foster parent that has a long-term relationship with a foster child who may be prioritized over others seeking to adopt the child. Statute defines a “current caretaker” as a foster parent who: currently cares for a child in custody of DHS that has a permanency plan or concurrent adoption plan; and who has cared for the foster child or the child’s sibling for the previous 12 consecutive months, or has cared for the child or sibling for at least half of the child's or sibling’s life when the child or sibling is less than two years old. The current language only contemplates consecutive care, which could result in the loss of priority adoption status for otherwise long-term foster parents if there are any breaks or interruptions in care.

Senate Bill 830 modifies the definition of “current caretaker” to allow for cumulative calculation of a foster parent’s time spent caring for a foster child or the child’s sibling. The measure’s definition includes foster parents who have cared for a foster child or the child’s sibling for a cumulative 12 months (rather than only the immediately preceding 12 consecutive months), or foster parents that have provided care for half of the life of a child or sibling if the child or sibling is under two years old, with that time calculated cumulatively.