

**HB 2500 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**  
**House Committee On Human Services and Housing**

**Carrier:** Rep. Stark

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**Action Date:** 04/06/17

**Action:** Do pass with amendments and rescind subsequent referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 8-0-1-0

**Yeas:** 8 - Keny-Guyer, Meek, Nearman, Noble, Olson, Piluso, Sanchez, Stark

**Exc:** 1 - Gorsek

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Directs Department of Human Services (DHS) to consult with the Department of Justice (DOJ) to develop and implement training and continuing education for DHS caseworkers on juvenile dependency proceedings. Requires instruction and materials on engaging in legal practices and parameters from DOJ. Requires continuing education for caseworkers every four years.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Involvement of caseworkers in juvenile dependency proceedings
- Provisions of the measure

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Directs Department of Human Services (DHS) to consult with the Department of Justice to develop and implement training and continuing education for DHS caseworkers. Changes requirement for training to occur every four years. Changes instruction from judges to Department of Justice. Removes the Attorney General from providing instruction and materials.

**BACKGROUND:**

Child welfare staff across Oregon counties may perform multiple legal functions with dependency proceedings. Caseworkers in juvenile court proceedings have prepared petitions, affidavits, drafted court orders, and presented the Department of Human Services' position in court.

House Bill 2500 A directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to consult with the Department of Justice to develop and implement training and continuing education for DHS caseworkers training on juvenile dependency proceedings. The bill requires instruction and materials for caseworkers engaging in legal practices and parameters from juvenile dependency judges and attorneys. House Bill 2500 A requires continuing education for juvenile dependency caseworkers every four years.