

SB 749 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

Action Date: 04/17/17

Action: Without recommendation as to passage, but with amendments and requesting referral to Rules. (Printed A-Eng.)

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:

Permits minor age 15 or older in legal custody of Department of Human Services (DHS) access to their own confidential information upon request, and allows them to authorize release of information.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Foster youth access to DHS records
- Existing rights to information and release of records covered by measure
- Stability of caseworker assignments

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces provisions. Permits young person age 15 or older access to own confidential information upon request, and to be allowed to sign own release of information. Defines terms.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law does not currently provide a mechanism for a child, ward, youth, or youth offender in the legal custody of the Department of Human Services (DHS) to access their own confidential records without the permission of DHS staff. Such access may help young persons in DHS custody who may be seeking assistance from advocates, attorneys, or others.

Senate Bill 749-A permits a young person age 15 or older in DHS' legal custody to access confidential information about them that is maintained by DHS upon request. The measure also entitles them to sign an authorization to release their own information in order to obtain assistance.