

**HB 3068 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Rep. Hack

**House Committee On Early Childhood and Family Supports**

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**Action Date:** 04/18/17

**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 9-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 9 - Bynum, Hack, Hayden, Huffman, Keny-Guyer, Lively, Malstrom, Piluso, Smith DB

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Zena Rockowitz, LPRO Analyst

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Eliminates recourse and referral agencies. Defines resource and referral system as a statewide network of entities funded by the state. Authorizes Office of Child Care to implement resource and referral system. Requires resource and referral entities to provide services such as training and technical assistance for child care providers, referrals for parents or guardians seeking services and recruitment of qualified individuals to meet child care needs of communities. Requires resource and referral entities to match funds, at not less than 10 percent of public funds received by resource and referral entity. Permits Office of Child Care to implement federal requirements, award grants or enter into agreements.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Evolution of early learning field since law was written
- Parents and guardians want access to range of services in addition to child care referrals
- Methods for delivering professional development to child care providers
- Flexibility for Early Learning Division to implement broader system of resource and referrals
- Ability for Office of Child Care to implement provisions in contract rather than in rule

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Replaces measure.

**BACKGROUND:**

Presently, Oregon law specifies that resource and referral agencies, under the Office of Child Care and the Early Learning Division, are responsible for providing information on child care providers to parents, providing technical assistance to existing and potential child care providers and coordinating community resources. Resource and referral agencies must provide services such as helping parents locate available child care during nontraditional work hours and explaining to providers of child care services how to license a child care center.

The early learning workforce has high turnover and low retention rates, which creates instability for children. Participation by child care providers in professional development, training and education is associated with better retention and positive teacher-child outcomes. Child care resource and referral agencies are increasingly focusing on building professional development opportunities for the early learning workforce by partnering with community colleges and hiring early education trainers and quality improvement specialists. Due to the focus of child care resource and referral agencies on professional development, the Early Learning Division has contracted with 211info to provide child care referrals. This provides a clearinghouse to help people identify, navigate and connect with additional local resources in their county.

House Bill 3068-A eliminates resource and referral agencies and replaces them with a statewide network in order for the Early Learning Division to partner with a wider range of entities to provide services. It codifies strategies developed by work groups the Early Learning Division convened in 2015 to address early learning workforce needs and determine how to help parents and guardians enroll in services.

This Summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.