

SB 131 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Sub-Referral To: Senate Committee On Human Services

Meeting Dates: 2/18, 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Director of the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to appoint a Children's Health Advocate to ensure that children in private child-caring agencies receive timely access to health care. Requires Children's Health Advocate to investigate and resolve complaints regarding access to care through the Oregon Health Plan and resolve disputes regarding reimbursement of the cost of the child's care. Requires OHA, in collaboration with the Department of Human Service (DHS), to inform child-caring agencies about Children's Health Advocate services.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) provides regulatory oversight of child-caring agencies, which are defined as private schools, private agencies, or private organizations providing:

- Day treatment for children with emotional disturbances;
- Adoption placement services;
- Residential care, including but not limited to foster care or residential treatment for children;
- Residential care in combination with academic education and therapeutic care, including but not limited to treatment for emotional, behavioral or mental health disturbances;
- Outdoor youth programs; or
- Other similar care or services for children. (ORS 418.205)

Child-caring agencies can include shelter-care homes, independent resident facilities, and private residential boarding schools.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) administers the Oregon Health Plan (OHP), the State's Medicaid program, which provides health care coverage to qualifying individuals. Any child under the age of 19 who is a resident of Oregon and is not already insured is eligible for OHP.

Senate Bill 131 requires OHA to appoint a Children's Health Advocate responsible for resolving issues of access and reimbursement for Medicaid recipients in private child-caring agencies.