

SB 171
Relating to children

SB 171 supports the Department of Human Services operating child welfare programs consistent with the federal Family First Prevention Services Act, which will allow federal dollars to pay for services to families that are at risk of entering the child welfare system. The federal law also limits funding for children who are placed in a setting that is not a foster family home unless it a qualified residential treatment program. The measure anticipates Oregon will be ready to operate under the law beginning July 1, 2020.

The bill outlines definitions, requirements, and conditions for the Department's use of QRTP and non-QRTP settings. DHS must report, on a website monthly, information on out-of-state placements; these postings must start by no later than September 1, 2019.

The amendment eliminates restrictions around DHS placing children out-of-state. It also adds a summary of potential impacts on county and state juvenile programs to the required legislative report. The amendment has an indeterminate fiscal impact; no budgetary changes are recommended at this time.

The Capital Construction Subcommittee recommends SB 171 be amended by the -A8 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.