

SB 1518 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

Prepared By: Amie FenderSosa, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/17, 2/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to make reasonable efforts, no later than June 30, 2020, to submit to the court documents required to finalize all pending adoption proceedings that on or before January 1, 2020, meet certain criteria. Requires DHS submit a report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to foster children no later than September 1, 2020, describing the results of the actions completed pursuant to this mandate, including the number of adoptions finalized and the resources required by DHS to timely complete future adoptions.

Directs DHS to submit a report, no later than September 1, 2020, to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to foster children, regarding the status of DHS' rulemaking defining "candidate for foster care" that meets the funding requirements of the federal Family First Prevention Services Act, and requires DHS consider certain criteria during the rulemaking process.

Specifies that the Office of Child Care may conditionally enroll a person in the Central Background Registry pending the results of an FBI criminal records check if that person has successfully completed the criminal records check and the child abuse and neglect records check in Oregon and the state of their residence, if the person does not reside in Oregon.

Declares it is the policy of the state of Oregon to not disqualify a person from providing child welfare services to a child or ward because of: receipt of child welfare services; a disability; race, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation or gender expression. Declares it is the policy of the state that a child, ward or youth may not be prohibited from, disciplined for or retaliated against for speaking about his or her child welfare experience. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Alleviation for child care workforce through conditional enrollment of workforce
- Ensuring safety for children during background check processing ("never alone with children")
- Youth bill of rights
- Absence of a national clearinghouse and current limitations with out-of-state registries
- Staffing and background check timelines

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Department of Human Services (DHS), 55.5 percent of children available for adoption between January 2017 and September 2019 were not adopted within 12 months of entering foster care, and of them, 69 percent remained in foster care.

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The Family First Prevention Services Act provides federal financial support to states and tribes for specific services for any child or youth who is a "candidate for foster care."

Exempt prohibited individuals are not permitted to provide child care within five years of becoming an exempt prohibited individual. An exempt prohibited individual is defined as an individual whose certification, registration, or enrollment in the Central Background Registry (Registry) has been revoked or removed.

Senate Bill 1518-A is an omnibus bill relating to children. It includes issues concerning pending adoptions, defining "candidate for foster care," background checks for child care providers, and child welfare policies.