

SB 1566 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

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Meeting Dates: 2/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Extends eligibility for the Oregon Promise program to certain Oregon foster children who attain their highest level of education while in out-of-state placements. Permits Department of Human Services (DHS) to close at screening reports of third party child abuse in specified circumstances and directs DHS to submit report to Legislative Assembly regarding child abuse reports closed at screening no later than November 15, 2020. Sunsets March 31, 2021. Directs DHS to adopt rules allowing up to two family-based programs to provide services to certain children, and to submit report to Legislative Assembly regarding such programs no later than September 1, 2022. Sunsets January 2, 2024. Prohibits DHS from placing Oregon children in certain out-of-state child-caring agencies (CCAs). Directs DHS to review out-of-state CCA placements of children or youths who have or may have an intellectual or developmental disability and specifies criteria for the process. Requires DHS to accompany children and youth when placed in or moved to an out-of-state CCA. Prohibits placing children or youth in care of state in out-of-state CCAs providing care primarily to juvenile offenders except in specified circumstances. Requires DHS to notify placement authorities of any other state retaining jurisdiction of children in specified settings in Oregon upon awareness of a report of suspected child abuse, and to commence an investigation of a report of suspected abuse if the reported abuse occurred in Oregon or in an out-of-state CCA with Oregon children. Authorizes DHS to place child in a child care institution or other residential congregate care setting only if it is a CCA and qualified residential treatment program (QRTP), except as specified. Clarifies accreditation requirements for QRTPs. Establishes criteria for court determinations of placement of children in specified out-of-state CCAs. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Promise program is a state grant that covers tuition costs at Oregon community colleges for recent high school graduates or General Education Development (GED) graduates. In order to enroll, students must be Oregon residents for at least 12 months and have completed their high school diploma or GED in Oregon. According to the Department of Human Services (DHS), 16 children and youth in Oregon's foster care system were in placements outside of Oregon as of January 2020 (compared to 88 in March 2019).

DHS is responsible for responding to child abuse reports in Oregon and screening for information to determine if there is a need for an assessment. If no assessment is needed, the report is closed at screening. According to DHS, 47 percent of child abuse reports were closed at screening between January and September 2019.

DHS administers Oregon's foster care program, and placements in foster care range from family home settings to congregate care settings. Family home settings are placements with families that are certified to provide foster care. Congregate care settings include CCAs and qualified residential treatment programs (QRTPs). Currently, DHS may make placements of children or youths in congregate care residential settings if the setting is a licensed, certified, or authorized CCA or a QRTP.

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The measure is an omnibus bill relating to children. It addresses the Oregon Promise program, screening requirements for reports of child abuse, family-based programs providing services to children, and out-of-state child-caring agencies.