

Legislative Fiscal Office

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Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Senate Co-Chair
Rep. Dan Rayfield, House Co-Chair

Sen. Fred Girod, Senate Co-Vice Chair
Rep. David Gomberg, House Co-Vice Chair
Rep. Greg Smith, House Co-Vice Chair

To: Human Services Subcommittee

From: Laurie Byerly, Legislative Fiscal Office

Date: February 24, 2020

Subject: SB 1566 – Relating to children

SB 1566 primarily changes provisions around requirements for and use of out-of-state congregate care settings for children in Oregon’s foster care system, which is administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS). While some bill elements, such as changes to level of care and staffing requirements, may affect the number of authorized providers, utilization, services offered, and/or funding mix, the associated budget impacts (costs or savings) are indeterminate and are also potentially influenced by proposed rate increases for Behavior Rehabilitation Services providers.

One component of the bill has a direct, quantifiable fiscal impact for DHS; a requirement that an out-of-state child-caring agency must be licensed by DHS to provide services. DHS is requesting one new full-time permanent Compliance Specialist 3 position to support this work, at a biennial cost of about \$200,000 General Fund.

With passage of SB 155 (2019), the agency is now responsible for handling reports of third party child abuse. SB 1566 permits DHS, up through March 31, 2021, to close at screening certain types of these reports. This flexibility supports gradual program implementation and provides time for DHS to gain actual experience with these new investigations toward helping inform policy and resource needs; a report on program activity is due to interim legislative committees no later than November 15, 2020. In addition, delaying full implementation will mitigate some projected costs. For context, without the measure, DHS estimates needing 46 positions and \$7.8 million General Fund in the current biennium to handle approximately 5,000 investigations per year.

No amendments are recommended; budget adjustments related to this bill will be included in the omnibus budget bill for the 2020 session. The measure was previously heard in the Senate Committee on Human Services on 2/5/2020 and 2/3/2020 and was reported out with a do pass recommendation.

Final Subcommittee Action

LFO recommends that SB 1566 be moved to the Ways and Means Full Committee.

MOTION: I move SB 1566 to the Full Committee with a do pass recommendation.
(VOTE)

Carriers

Full Committee: _____

House Floor: _____

Senate Floor: _____