

HB 4120 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

Action Date: 02/05/20

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Helt, Keny-Guyer, Meek, Mitchell, Noble, Sanchez, Schouten, Williams, Zika

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/3, 2/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates to the Department of Human Services \$2 million from the General Fund to provide transition services to current and former foster children. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- One-third of prior Oregon foster children have been homeless in the last two years
- Program would serve an additional 200 youth
- Rising cost of housing represents a challenge in serving clients where they live
- Additional funding needed in future sessions to address larger need for this population

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Clarifies that the funding for transition services is for current and certain former foster children.

BACKGROUND:

Foster care is a non-permanent living arrangement for minors who need a safe place to live when their parents or guardians cannot safely take care of them. Most children are in foster care because of a history of abuse or neglect. The Department of Human Services (DHS) is responsible for children in foster care, manages the foster home certification process, and helps young adults transition out of foster care to independence. Through its Independent Living Program (ILP), DHS provides skills training and educational assistance through contracted local nonprofits. Support through ILP is available for youth who are above the age of 16 and under age 21; are currently in DHS or Tribal foster care; are in need of program services to become self-sufficient and independent; and have an open case with DHS Child Welfare. Youth can access program funds to obtain items or services to meet goals for transition if they are age 14 or older and in DHS care, or are a former foster child who left child welfare substitute care placement at age 16 or older, with at least 180 days of placement services after age 14, and have an open ILP Life Skills training service.