

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 2424 - 2

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2021 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Directs Department of Human Services, in consultation with Oregon Youth Authority and Oregon Health Authority, to develop child-caring agency grant and training program.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Counties, Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Department of Human Services (DHS), Oregon Youth Authority (OYA)

Analysis:

This fiscal impact statement is for the purpose of transmitting the measure from the House Committee on Human Services to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

HB 2424 - 2 directs the Department of Human Services (DHS), in consultation with the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA), to establish a child-caring agency grant and training program. Grants of up to \$30,000 are to be used to develop training programs to ensure compliance with the federal Family First Prevention Services Act, and other quality improvement initiatives. DHS may contract with a nonprofit organization to administer the program and may adopt rules necessary to carry out this program. The grant administrator is directed to develop a statewide child-caring agency training program and submit biannual reports to DHS. There is a \$1.25 million General Fund appropriation to DHS to carry out this portion of the measure.

This measure also establishes the Child Welfare Cultural Equity Program within DHS. This program is to ensure access to diverse child welfare service providers consistent with the cultural diversity of the population being served. DHS may adopt rules to implement this program; and may develop, or contract with nonprofit organizations to develop, methods and best practices for implementing this program. There is a \$2.5 million General Fund appropriation to DHS to carry out this portion of the measure.

Additionally, under this measure, a qualified mental health associate program is created in OHA to provide loan repayment subsidies to mental health practitioners who commit to serving children in Oregon’s child-caring agencies for at least 24 months. OHA is directed to prescribe the program requirements by rule and may enter into contracts with one or more public or private entities to administer the program. There is a \$250,000 General Fund appropriation to OHA to carry out this portion of the measure, which is to be deposited in the Health Care Provider Incentive Fund.

Finally, this measure allows a person to serve as a qualified mental health associate designated to assist a child-caring agency if the person has completed an educational program and training program; is enrolled in or has completed a registered apprenticeship program; and completes 16 hours of continuing education every two years. There is an additional \$250,000 General Fund appropriation to OHA to carry out this portion of the measure.

A more complete fiscal analysis on the measure will be prepared as the measure is considered in the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.