

HB 2340 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services

Action Date: 03/22/21

Action: Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Leif, Noble, Owens, Ruiz, Sanchez, Schouten, Williams

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/1, 3/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$8,162,104 to the Department of Human Services (DHS) for transition services for foster children. Takes effect 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Lack of funding for independent living programs
- Exacerbated barriers due to the COVID-19 pandemic

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

When youth age-out of the foster care system without permanent, stable housing they are often forced to make the transition with limited financial and emotional support. The Department of Human Services (DHS) reports that lack of support and housing for youth transitioning out of foster care results in greater challenges as compared with peers in the general population, in areas such as education, employment, housing, and early parenthood. DHS also reports that, in Oregon, the rate of foster youth aging-out of the foster care system annually without permanent housing is well above the national average.

House Bill 2340 appropriates \$8,162,104 to DHS to expand independent living program services for transition-aged foster youth to support their successful exit from foster care.