FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

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

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Measure Description:

Requires operators, employees and volunteers of preschool recorded programs and school-age recorded programs to be enrolled in Central Background Registry.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Education (ODE), Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Justice (DOJ)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

	2021-23 Biennium	2023-25 Biennium
General Fund	\$698,902	\$1,071,941
Total Funds	\$698,902	\$1,071,941
Positions	5	5
FTE	2.53	5.00

Analysis: The measure requires personnel associated with recorded programs for preschool and school-aged children to enroll in the Central Background Registry and provides that school-aged recorded programs may not operate without registering with the Office of Child Care. The Office of Child Care may conduct certain investigations of preschool recorded programs and school-age recorded programs to determine when a serious complaint is filed. The measure also allows these programs to continue to employ an individual who is not enrolled in the Central Background Registry (CBR) on January 2, 2022 if the following conditions are met: (1) the individual was employed by the program on or before January 2, 2022, (2) the program has completed the CBR before the date, (3) the individual submits an application for enrollment in the CBR no later than June 30, 2022, and (4) the Office of Child Care has not issued a notice to deny the application. Responsibility for background checks would be transferred from the Department of Human Services to the Office of Child Care.

The Oregon Department of Education's (ODE) Early Learning Division would require one Administrative Specialist 1 (0.58 FTE), one Office Specialist 2 (0.21 FTE), and three Compliance Specialist 2 positions (1.74 FTE) to administer background checks. These positions would be phased-in prior to the operative date of the measure to allow for recruitment and training. Costs of these positions and the associated Services and Supplies total \$548,902 General Fund. Currently, the state pays the cost of the background checks for licensed facilities. ODE estimates that adding the recorded programs, there will be an additional 2,000 background checks per year at \$75 per background check for an additional total of \$150,000. These resources are included in the Governor's proposed budget for ODE and if approved will be part of the agency's budget.

The Department of Justice is indeterminate. DOJ may require additional resources for processing applications for childcare providers and providing hearing on proposed denials of applications; however, the workload is then anticipated to decrease into the future.

The Department of Human Services does not anticipate a fiscal impact due to the provisions of this bill.

This measure warrants a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for consideration of its budgetary impact on the State's General Fund.