

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 707 - A

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

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

Prepared by: Kim To
Reviewed by: Gregory Jolivet
Date: April 9, 2021

Measure Description:

Directs Department of Human Services to provide certain notices to children and wards whom department placed in out-of-state residential facilities between January 1, 2016, and June 30, 2020, and to provide representatives of children and wards with certain documentation and information.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Human Services (DHS)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

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

Analysis:

SB 707 A-Engrossed defines terms and requires the Department of Human Services (DHS), by October 1, 2021, to provide to each child and ward who the Department placed in an out-of-state residential facility between January 1, 2016 and June 30, 2020 notice of their right to seek civil remedy if there is a belief they were treated negligently. The measure specifies information that must be included in the notice. Upon written request, DHS must provide the child and the child’s or ward’s representatives with all of the information in the department’s possession or control, including incident reports, injuries and abuse allegations, regarding the child or ward and arising from incidents that occurred during the period of time that the child or ward was placed in the out-of-state residential facility. DHS is required to report, by January 1, 2022, to the Legislative Assembly on the Department’s progress in obtaining the required records. The report must include the number of children who have requested release of their records, information about any facility’s refusal to release the requested information and records and information about what methods the Department has used to request and compel the release of the information and records. This measure takes effect upon passage. The measure is repealed on January 2, 2043.

Although DHS Child Welfare would absorb some costs to implement the requirements of this measure through prioritization of duties for current staff, the Department would need to hire two limited duration Operation Specialist 1 positions (1.50 FTE) to retrieve, review, and scan an estimated 150 records averaging 500 pages each.

DHS estimates the 2021-23 cost of these two limited duration positions (1.5 FTE) to be \$204,234 Total Funds [\$100,585 General Fund + \$15,888 Other Funds + \$87,761 Federal Funds].The fund split is based on the DHS 2019-21 cost allocation for shares services of 50% General Fund, 7% Other Funds and 43% Federal Funds.

This measure warrants a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for consideration of budgetary impact and position authority.