

HB 2333 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Bonham

House Committee On Human Services

Action Date: 04/12/21

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 7-0-0-0

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

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/3, 4/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to report quarterly to the Legislative Assembly as specified, regarding use of psychotropic medications for children in foster care starting April 1, 2022.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Removes request for medical providers to supply information.

BACKGROUND:

A 2018 report by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, found that up to 80 percent of children enter foster care with significant mental health needs. For children with mental health needs, psychotropic medications (i.e., medications used to treat clinical psychiatric symptoms or mental disorders such as depression, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia) may be effective treatments. There were 23,331 children in foster care in Oregon in 2018, out of which 4,468 were being treated with psychotropic medications.

Oregon's Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Coordinator within the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), is responsible for periodically updating the Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Plan, and works on youth mental health and addiction issues. The Department of Human Services (DHS) maintains the Oregon Foster Children's Bill of Rights, which includes access to physical and mental health care, including services and treatments available without parental consent. Currently, an assessment by a qualified mental health professional or licensed medical professional is required prior to the issuance of a prescription to a child in foster care for multiple psychotropic medications; prescriptions to children in foster care under a certain age must be reviewed annually when medications exceed a specified number; and prescriptions are prohibited unless they are for a medically accepted indication that is age-appropriate.

House Bill 2333 A requires a report on the first day of each quarter to the Legislative Assembly with information on the number of psychotropic prescriptions and prescribers for youth in DHS custody, starting on April 1, 2022.