



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



Oregon Department of Human Services

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Title: [HB 2104](#), Child Welfare: Removing Barriers to Permanency

Concept:

- Narrows the definition of “current caretaker” to be applicable when there is a permanency plan of adoption.
- Clarifies jurisdiction to prevent inadvertent termination of wardship by the state without proper safety considerations.

Need for policy change:

The ODHS’ Child Welfare Program (CW) has historically carried a significant backlog of pending adoption cases. CW is undergoing a review in partnership with Casey Family Programs to identify barriers and make improvements to reduce and/or eliminate the backlog.

History:

- [SB 741 \(2015\)](#) established the current caretaker definition and was intended to give relatives and current caretakers equal status when being considered as prospective adoptive parents.
- Jurisdictional issues have arisen in wardship cases resulting in immediate termination without proper safety considerations.

Additional information:

As the review is complete additional changes may be needed.

For more information please contact:

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