

**SB 209 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Human Services**

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**Prepared By:** Iva Sokolovska, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/15

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to study options for protecting from disclosure information regarding the sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression of children during juvenile dependency and termination of parental rights proceedings. Requires DHS to report to the Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2024.

Sunsets January 2, 2025.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is prohibited from disclosing or using the contents of any child welfare records, files, papers or communications that contain any information about an individual child, family or other recipient of services for purposes other than those directly connected with the administration of child welfare laws or unless required or authorized (ORS 409.225). The records, files, papers, and communications are confidential and are not available for public inspection. General information, policy statements, statistical reports, or similar compilations of data are not confidential unless such information is identified with an individual child, family, or other recipient of services or protected by other provision of law. The Department must disclose a child's client record to the juvenile court in juvenile proceedings, including tribal proceedings regarding the child (OAR 413-010-0045). Under existing law, the sexual orientation and gender identity/expression information of children and young adults in foster care can be disclosed in certain kinds of court proceedings.

House Bill 209 would require DHS to study options for protect from disclosure information regarding the sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression of children during juvenile dependency and termination of parental rights proceedings.