

SB 548 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

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Meeting Dates: 2/22, 3/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide luggage carriers to transport the personal effects when a foster child is entering, transitioning, or exiting foster care. Directs DHS to keep a record and provide an explanation for trash bag use for transport of foster children’s personal effects. Directs DHS to report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2024.

Sunsets January 2, 2029.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of use of trash bags to transport personal effects of foster children
- Impacts of practice of packing personal effects in a trash bag
- History of volunteer initiatives to provide luggage transporters for foster children
- Supplying Department of Human Services with duffel bags from nonprofit organizations

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Removes requirement for DHS to keep a record and provide an explanation for trash bag use for transport of foster children’s personal effects.

BACKGROUND:

Children are placed in foster care when a child protective services worker and court have determined it is not safe for them to remain home. [Child Trends](#) state-level data for understanding child welfare in the United States, reports that in the 2020 federal fiscal year there were 6,026 children in foster care in Oregon of which 2,743 children entered foster care that year. The average length of time children spend in foster care in Oregon is 24.2 months. About 7 percent of them spend 5 plus years in foster care and 25 percent of foster youth switch homes five or more times before their 18th birthday. The Oregon nonprofit organization, Project Never Again, reports that children often have their belongings placed in trash bags when they move between homes or enter foster care.

Senate Bill 548 would require DHS to provide luggage carriers for foster children entering foster care, moving between homes, or exiting foster care.