

HB 3027 -2, -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/20, 3/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) to contract with entities that would act as navigators to assist families with enrolling in Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) program. Prescribes responsibilities of navigators and criteria for entities to act as navigators. Requires DELIC to prioritize entities that serve certain populations. Authorizes Early Learning Council to adopt rules to administer navigator program.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Difficulty in accessing and applying for child care assistance programs
- Operation of ONE eligibility system
- Navigators as solution to complex policy environment
- Outcome of work group
- Transfer of ERDC administration to DELIC
- Types of entities eligible to act as navigators

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Replaces the measure. Directs Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC), in consultation with Department of Human Services, to convene work group that would study optimal use of child care navigators. Expands role of navigator to include assistance with enrolling in Employment Related Day Care, Preschool Promise, infant and toddler care, Early Head Start, and Oregon Prekindergarten. Prescribes scope of work group responsibilities. Authorizes DELIC to adopt rules for implementation. Requires DELIC to report twice on work group findings to interim legislative committees. Sunsets January 2, 2025. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

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BACKGROUND:

The Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) program provides subsidized access to child care for families with working parents. Eligibility is typically considered based on family income but may consider other factors such as

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whether parents are enrolled in school or the presence of a mental or medical health condition. The program is currently operated by the Department of Human Services (DHS) but will be turned over to the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) on July 1, 2023.

House Bill 3027 requires DELIC to contract with entities that would act as navigators to assist families with enrolling in ERDC and specifies program requirements.