House Bill 2553

Sponsored by Representative MORGAN; Representatives LEVY B, SCHARF, Senators THATCHER, WEBER (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure as introduced.

Directs Oregon Health Authority to establish and administer grant program to provide financial assistance to certain prospective adoptive families.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to adoptions.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) The Oregon Health Authority shall establish and administer a grant program for the purpose of providing financial assistance to prospective adoptive families.

(2) A prospective adoptive family is eligible to participate in the grant program under this section if:

(a) The adoption is a private adoption facilitated by a licensed adoption agency and the prospective adoptive family resides in this state; or

(b) The child is within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court under ORS 419B.100 and the prospective adoptive family is biologically related to the child and resides in another state.

(3) Subject to the availability of funding, the grant program shall provide financial assistance for:

(a) Prenatal and postnatal medical expenses of the birth parent and child that are not otherwise covered by available public or private health insurance;

(b) Fees and costs associated with the adoption process, including court fees, attorney fees, private adoption agency fees and fees charged by the Department of Human Services for home studies and placement reports;

(c) Travel expenses; and

(d) Any other appropriate adoption-related expenses, as determined by the authority.

(4) The authority may not require the prospective adoptive family or birth parent to refund any portion of the grant moneys awarded under this section if the proposed adoption fails to be finalized for any reason.

(5) The authority shall adopt rules for the administration of the grant program established under this section.

SECTION 2. Not later than September 15 of each odd-numbered year, the Oregon Health Authority shall submit a report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to human services regarding the adoption assistance grant program described in section 1 of this 2023 Act.

SECTION 3. The report described in section 2 of this 2023 Act is first due not later than September 15, 2025.

NOTE: Matter in boldfaced type in an amended section is new; matter [italic and bracketed] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in boldfaced type.
SECTION 4. (1) Section 1 of this 2023 Act becomes operative January 1, 2024.

(2) The Oregon Health Authority may take any action on or before the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section that is necessary for the authority to exercise, on or after the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section, all of the duties, functions and powers conferred on the authority by section 1 of this 2023 Act.