House Bill 3402
Sponsored by Representative MORGAN

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 Department of Human Services to establish pilot program in certain counties for continued placement of children or wards in specified child-caring agencies providing short-term assessment and stabilization services. Permits continued placement if specified criteria are met. Requires department, in consultation with child-caring agency, to reassess appropriateness of placement at least once every 60 days. Sunsets January 2, 2029.

A BILL FOR AN ACT
Relating to a child placement pilot program in certain counties.

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

SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:
(a) “Child” has the meaning given that term in ORS 418.205.
(b) “Short-term placement” means a child-caring agency described in ORS 418.322 (3)(g), (h) or (i) that provides short-term assessment and stabilization services.
(c) “Ward” has the meaning given that term in ORS 419A.004.
(2) The Department of Human Services shall establish a pilot program for the placement of children or wards in short-term placements consistent with this section.
(3) Notwithstanding ORS 418.322 (4)(a) and (5), a child or ward who has been placed by the department in a short-term placement may continue in the short-term placement for more than 60 consecutive or 90 cumulative days in a 12-month period if:
(a) The short-term placement is located in a county along the southern Oregon border having a population of more than 80,000 and less than 200,000;
(b) Despite diligent efforts, the department has failed to identify an appropriate long-term placement for the child or ward;
(c) The child or ward would be placed in another short-term placement if relocated;
(d) At least once every 60 days, the department, in consultation with the short-term placement, conducts an assessment of the child or ward as provided in subsection (4) of this section; and
(e) The assessment indicates that relocating the child or ward to another short-term placement is reasonably likely to jeopardize any educational and social improvements the child or ward has made since being placed with the short-term placement.
(4) The department shall by rule establish criteria for the assessment under subsection (3) of this section. At a minimum, the assessment must take into consideration:
(a) The strengths and needs of the child or ward when initially placed in the short-term placement;
(b) How the needs of the child or ward have been met while in the short-term placement;

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.

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(c) The overall well-being of the child or ward since placement in the short-term placement;
(d) The social and educational development of the child or ward since placement in the short-term placement;
(e) Whether another short-term placement would provide a more effective and appropriate level of care for the child or ward; and
(f) Whether relocation of the child or ward to another short-term placement would jeopardize any improvements the child or ward has made since placement in the short-term placement.

SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2023 Act applies to children or wards placed by the Department of Human Services before, on or after the effective date of this 2023 Act.

SECTION 3. Section 1 of this 2023 Act is repealed on January 2, 2029.