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83rd LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD AND HUMAN SERVICES
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Date: January 13, 2026

To: Members of the House Interim Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services

From: Taylor Bickel, Legislative Analyst, Legislative Policy and Research Office

Re: Committee drafts for introduction on January 14, 2026

LC 211 directs the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC) to provide standardized information on all publicly funded early learning and care programs in Oregon to anyone who applies for, or is placed on the waitlist for, the Employment Related Dare Care (ERDC) subsidy program. The measure allows the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) to provide this information to applicants on behalf of DELC.

The measure also directs DELC, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), and the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) to jointly review background check requirements for staff under their jurisdictions, develop recommendations to streamline background checks, and submit the recommendations to the legislature by September 15, 2026.

LC 236 allows the ODHS to place an Indian child out-of-state if the placement complies with Tribal placement preferences under the Oregon Indian Child Welfare Act (ORICWA), and if the placement is a youth regional treatment center operated by the Indian Health Service or the child's Tribe requested the placement.

LC 266 modifies the definition of "child abuse" by requiring that a threat of harm to a child be an imminent risk of severe harm, rather than a substantial risk of harm. The measure specifies that ODHS is only required to investigate a report of child abuse if the alleged perpetrator is the child's parent, caregiver, guardian, child care provider, educator, or other specified adult who may have access to the child due to their relationship to the child or child's caregiver. The measure raises the standard to substantiate a finding of child abuse from a reasonable cause to believe to a preponderance of the evidence.