

# Senate Bill 521

Sponsored by Senator BATES; Representative BUCKLEY

## 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 implement Strengthening, Preserving and Reunifying Families programs to provide child welfare services on statewide basis.

Appropriates moneys from General Fund to department for implementation of programs on statewide basis.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to foster care; amending ORS 418.580; and appropriating money.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 418.580, as amended by section 29, chapter 97, Oregon Laws 2012, is amended  
5 to read:

6 418.580. (1)(a) [*By October 1, 2012, and to the extent practicable using available resources,*] The  
7 Department of Human Services and county partners shall implement Strengthening, Preserving and  
8 Reunifying Families programs as described in this section **on a statewide basis in each county**  
9 **or designated region of this state. The department may designate a combination of whole or**  
10 **parts of counties as a region when the availability of services is such that a program is best**  
11 **implemented on a regional basis.**

12 (b) County partners [*are encouraged to*] **shall** form collaborations with programs to design,  
13 oversee and participate in program development and implementation as appropriate.

14 (c) The department shall be the lead agency in efforts undertaken pursuant to this section, but  
15 all officers, boards, commissions and other agencies of the State of Oregon shall cooperate with the  
16 department to accomplish the duties imposed on the department by ORS 418.575 to 418.598 and to  
17 allocate services provided by programs as described in this section.

18 (2)(a) The Director of Human Services or the director's designee[, *the Director of the Oregon*  
19 *Health Authority or the director's designee or the Director of the Housing and Community Services*  
20 *Department or the director's designee*] shall enter into a contract with, and make reasonable payment  
21 for services provided by, [*a program*] **at least one program in each county or designated region**  
22 **of this state to provide services** in accordance with ORS 418.575 to 418.598, and shall, where  
23 necessary, enter into contracts with a lead agency or with county and community entities that have  
24 been designated by the county partners to **establish and** coordinate services provided under this  
25 section. **The department shall work with counties and designated regions, county partners,**  
26 **the Director of the Oregon Health Authority or the director's designee and the Director of**  
27 **the Housing and Community Services Department or the director's designee to ensure the**  
28 **identification and availability of at least one program and service providers in each county**  
29 **or designated region of this state.**

30 [*(b) A contract entered into under this subsection shall require only those services that are rea-*

**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.

1 *sonably available in the county or region where the program is or will be providing services. Services*  
 2 *may or may not be located in a given county or region.]*

3 [(c)] (b) At the election of [*any director* or] **the Director of Human Services or the** director's  
 4 designee, a contract entered into under this subsection may be a performance-based contract.

5 (3) The programs implemented under this section shall provide an array of services. [*Depending*  
 6 *on resources and availability,*] The services provided may include but are not limited to the following:

7 (a) Front end intervention services that include alcohol and drug treatment providers or mental  
 8 health providers accompanying department caseworkers on initial calls and visits in response to  
 9 allegations or reports of abuse or neglect. County partners shall participate in assessments to de-  
 10 termine the appropriateness and level of program services required for a child and the child's family,  
 11 the creation of safety plans to enable the provision of in-home services if appropriate and the de-  
 12 velopment of family preservation and reunification plans for presentation to the juvenile court.

13 (b) Residential treatment whereby a member of a child's family with care, custody or control of  
 14 the child enters a treatment facility accompanied by the child with 24-hour supervision while the  
 15 child and the member of the child's family engage in family strengthening activities and receive  
 16 appropriate mental health and addiction treatment support and services.

17 (c) Supervised housing whereby a child and the child's family remain together in program  
 18 housing while they participate in family strengthening activities, receive mental health and ad-  
 19 diction support and services and have the appropriate level of supervision to ensure the physical  
 20 health, care and safety of the child.

21 (d) Family-centered day and outpatient treatment services, either after completion of residential  
 22 treatment or in lieu of residential treatment, designed specifically for substance-abusing parents of  
 23 children involved in the child welfare system.

24 (e) Intensive in-home services while the child and family engage in family strengthening activ-  
 25 ities.

26 (f) Facilitation of regular contact between a child and the child's family, if separation has oc-  
 27 curred, to facilitate an easier, quicker and more successful transition of the child back into the  
 28 family home.

29 (g) Case managers who provide child and family supervision, assistance identifying and access-  
 30 ing needed services, observation and monitoring of parenting behavior, assistance with life skills  
 31 development and assistance in removing barriers to system independence.

32 (h) Immediate access to supervised drug-free emergency and short-term housing.

33 (i) Access to permanent, drug-free housing with on-site case managers and access to supportive  
 34 services that increase stability for a child and the child's family.

35 (j) Family finding services to identify extended family members to provide additional support,  
 36 resources and alternative placement options if necessary.

37 (k) Services of a court appointed special advocate appointed under section 2, chapter 97, Oregon  
 38 Laws 2012, where available.

39 (L) Other services and interventions as programs evolve, research develops and funding becomes  
 40 available.

41 (4) The services provided by programs must be culturally competent and include evidence-  
 42 informed or evidence-based practices.

43 (5) The department shall establish by rule client-focused functional outcome measures for pro-  
 44 grams implemented under this section.

45 (6) Client-focused functional outcome measures may be used as a basis for funding programs and

1 entering into or renewing contracts with programs.

2 (7) Programs shall develop and implement training and continuing education curricula for per-  
3 sons delivering program services and, when adequate funding exists, sponsor the attendance of ser-  
4 vice providers at state or national training programs, conferences or other similar events.

5 (8) Programs may seek funds from public and private sources to:

6 (a) Meet match requirements for state or federal grants to support the provision of program  
7 services;

8 (b) Implement and operate the training and educational requirements of subsection (7) of this  
9 section; and

10 (c) Provide financial resources for the hiring of personnel and the provision of existing or en-  
11 hanced program services.

12 (9) The department, in consultation with programs, shall report annually to the Governor and  
13 the appropriate interim committees of the Legislative Assembly that address child welfare issues on  
14 *[the progress toward and projected costs of full]* **statewide** implementation of ORS 418.575 to 418.598  
15 **in each county or designated region of this state.**

16 **SECTION 2. There is appropriated to the Department of Human Services, for the**  
17 **biennium beginning July 1, 2013, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for deposit**  
18 **in the Strengthening, Preserving and Reunifying Families Program Fund established under**  
19 **ORS 418.585 to be used for the purposes of implementing the amendments to ORS 418.580 by**  
20 **section 1 of this 2013 Act.**

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