

HB 2259 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Family Supports

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Meeting Dates: 3/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Office of Child Care to complete additional records checks of applicants to the Central Background Registry (registry). Prohibits enrollment by applicants with disqualifying condition. Eliminates requirement that enrollment in registry expires in two years from date of enrollment. Directs Early Learning Council to adopt rules on record checks and enrollment periods. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

REVENUE: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 Amendment: Allows Office of Child Care (OCC) to maintain information in Central Background Registry (registry) through electronic records system. Authorizes OCC to complete foster care certification check and adult protective services check. Permits OCC to enroll individual in registry if Department of Human Services has completed background check and it has been approved. Adds that ineligible enrollee can be suspended. Requires operators or employees of early learning programs to apply for enrollment. Requires agreement about enrollment status between private agency or organization and allows for recovery of administrative costs incurred by OCC. Applies retroactively to past enrollments.

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

REVENUE: No revenue impact

BACKGROUND:

The Office of Child Care (OCC) is part of the Early Learning Division in the Department of Education, aiming to provide safe, quality, affordable, and accessible child care. The Early Learning Council (ELC) is the governing body overseeing the early learning system. The OCC licenses 1,000 certified child care centers, 350 certified family child care homes, and 4,000 registered family child care homes. Child care staff and individuals who may have unsupervised access to children (e.g., adults living in the home, volunteers, maintenance staff, office staff, and regular visitors) must apply to the Central Background Registry (registry), administered by the OCC. This applies to programs such as federal Head Start and Oregon Pre Kindergarten. Applicants to the registry undergo a background check to determine if they can be enrolled and permitted on the premises. The OCC determines the criminal and child protective services history of an applicant by using records from the Oregon State Police, the Department of Human Services and in some cases the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Currently, there is a two-year enrollment period with opportunity for renewal. OCC can remove an individual from the registry.

The federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) enables low-income parents to work or pursue education and training, improves the safety and quality of child care, and increases the supply of child care for all families. In 2014, the reauthorization of CCDF created new rules for background checks of staff at child care facilities. The law requires fingerprinting every five years and expands the searches of national registries and databases that have not historically been accessed, adding the criminal and sex offender registries and repositories, state-based child abuse
This Summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

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and neglect registries of the past five states an applicant has lived, National Crime and Information Center, Federal Bureau of Investigation fingerprint check and National Sex Offender Registry.

HB 2259 would allow Oregon to remain compliant with federal CCDF requirements by expanding registries or databases to be checked upon application to the Registry, authoring ELC to establish rules regarding expiration and renewal periods and prohibiting enrollment of an individual with a disqualifying condition.