

SB 102 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates Adoption Applicable Child Savings Fund, separate from General Fund, for deposit of specified federal funds for use in adoption assistance payments and child welfare services. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

FISCAL: May Have Fiscal Impact, But No Statement Yet Issued

REVENUE: May Have Revenue Impact, But No Statement Yet Issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Both Oregon and federal law provide for adoption assistance funding to the Department of Human Services (DHS). The Adoption Assistance Applicable Child Savings Program (adoption assistance program) is a federal and state funded program that adds financial support to families that are unable to meet their child's needs without assistance. It serves as a subsidy to help with out-of-pocket expenses like court costs, attorney fees, medical and surgical expenses, and other care incidental to the training and education of a child with special needs. The current statutory scheme requires that any left-over federal adoption assistance dollars not spent on the DHS program revert back to the state's General Fund at the end of each biennium. DHS must then request those left-over funds back from the General Fund in the next biennium, as federal law requires that those funds be used only for new child welfare services.

Senate Bill 102 creates an Adoption Assistance Child Savings Fund that is separate from the General Fund for DHS to use in depositing left-over federal adoption assistance payments. These left-over federal funds are then only used to supplement new child welfare services and adoption assistance the next biennium.