

SB 131 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 04/01/19

Action: Do pass and rescind subsequent referral to Human Services and requesting referral to Ways and Means.

Vote: 3-0-2-0

Yeas: 3 - Knopp, Linthicum, Monnes Anderson

Exc: 2 - Beyer, Fagan

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/18, 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Director of the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to appoint a Children's Health Advocate (Advocate) to ensure that children in private child-caring agencies receive timely access to health care. Requires Advocate to investigate and resolve complaints regarding access to care through the Oregon Health Plan and resolve disputes regarding reimbursement of the cost of the child's care. Requires OHA, in collaboration with the Department of Human Services, to inform child-caring agencies about Children's Health Advocate services.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Confusion and coordinated care organization coverage gaps caused by changes in foster home placements
- Governor's proposal to create a Child Services Director

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Human Services provides regulatory oversight of child-caring agencies, which are defined as private schools, private agencies, or private organizations providing:

- Day treatment for children with emotional disturbances;
- Adoption placement services;
- Residential care, including care combined with academic education and therapeutic services
- Outdoor youth programs; or
- Other similar care or services for children (ORS 418.205)

Child-caring agencies can include shelter-care homes, independent resident facilities, and private residential boarding schools.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) administers the Oregon Health Plan (OHP), the State's Medicaid program, which provides health care coverage to qualifying individuals. Any child under the age of 19 who is a resident of Oregon and is not already insured is eligible for OHP.

Senate Bill 131 requires OHA to appoint a Children's Health Advocate responsible for resolving issues of access and reimbursement for OHP recipients in private child-caring agencies.