

SB 85 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

Prepared By: C. Ross, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 2/18, 3/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Adjusts provisions of previous legislation with respect to children placed in out-of-state child-caring facilities. Relieves Department of Human Services (DHS) personnel from obligation to accompany a child being moved via secure transport in an emergency, if it would cause delay or interference. Adds to the list of alternative criteria that allow DHS to place children in congregate residential settings that are child-caring agencies but not qualified residential treatment programs (QRTP) (as would otherwise be required): when a ward is 18 years old or older and the child-caring agency is authorized by DHS or the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) as a residential treatment facility or residential home. Increases the limit on the amount of time a child may be placed in specified residential care or shelter-care (that offers short-term assessment and stabilization) from no more than 60 consecutive days to 90, and from no more than 90 cumulative days to 120, in any 12-month period.

Refines Juvenile Code provisions governing placements in certain residential settings, to retool criteria applicable to the placement of juvenile offenders in out-of-state child-caring agencies, and to eliminate an exception allowing placement of children at the same agencies who are not juvenile offenders.

Updates references to previous legislation now codified in Oregon Laws.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Technical nature of adjustments and underlying intent
- Continuing implementation of QRTP requirements
- DHS' goal to avoid use of out-of-state resources, but have access in place if needed, pursuant to QRTP requirements
- Extent of potential amendment; need for collaboration between DHS and OHA

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 85 adjusts provisions enacted via Senate Bill 171 in 2019, and via Senate Bill 1605 during the first special session of 2020. Senate Bill 171 aligned the state child welfare system's use of qualified residential treatment programs (QRTPs) with the federal Family First Prevention Services Act. It included limits on the duration of child placements in certain residential care and shelter care, and placements to care for adjudicated youth (juvenile offenders). Senate Bill 1605 was an omnibus measure enacted to address several issues relating to children, including out-of-state placements, and delaying the operation of Senate Bill 171 following federal and state declarations of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Among its other provisions, Senate Bill 1605 required Department of Human Services' (DHS') personnel to accompany youth transported to child-caring agencies out of state, and prohibited placement in congregate residential settings unless the setting was both a child-caring agency and a qualified residential treatment program, unless specific alternative criteria were met.

Senate Bill 85 makes a number of technical adjustments to provisions governing out-of-state placement of children. It relieves DHS personnel from accompanying a child being moved via secure transport in an emergency if it would cause delay or interference. It adds to the list of alternative criteria that allow placements in congregate residential settings that are child-caring agencies but *not* qualified residential treatment programs, for

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individuals 18 years or older if the child-caring agency is authorized as a residential treatment facility or residential home by DHS or the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). The measure also increases the length of time a child may be placed in specified residential care or shelter-care to no more than 90 consecutive or 120 cumulative days in a 12-month period. Finally, the measure retools criteria applicable to the placement of juvenile offenders in out-of-state child-caring agencies, eliminating an exception so that placement of children at the same agency who are *not* juvenile offenders is prohibited.