

HB 2333 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services

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Meeting Dates: 3/3, 4/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Human Services to report quarterly to the Legislative Assembly regarding use of psychotropic medications for children in foster care, specifies reporting requirements and reporting dates.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Requires the Department of Human Services to submit a report to the Legislative Assembly regarding use of psychotropic medications for children placed in foster care no later than April 1, 2022. Specifies reporting requirements.

BACKGROUND:

A 2018 report by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General reported that up to 80 percent of children enter foster care with significant mental health needs. For children with mental health needs, psychotropic medications (i.e., medication used to treat clinical psychiatric symptoms or mental disorders such as depression, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia) may be effective treatments. There were 23,331 children in foster care in Oregon in 2018, out of which 4,468 were being treated with psychotropic medications. 2014 Or. Laws, Chap. 99 established a Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Coordinator within the State Health Authority, sets forth responsibilities of the coordinator, requires the periodic updating of the Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Plan, reestablishes the Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Coordinator with that part of the Authority that works with mental health and addiction issues, includes school student data. 2013 Or. Laws, Chap. 515 requires the Department of Human Services to adopt rules to establish the Oregon Foster Children's Bill of Rights; provides for rights including to obtain health care and mental health care, including services and treatments available without parental consent. 2009 Or. Laws, Chap. 853 requires the development of procedures for an assessment by a qualified mental health professional or licensed medical professional prior to the issuance of a prescription to a child in foster care for multiple psychotropic medications. Requires an annual review of prescriptions when a child in foster care has more than a specified number of such medications or is under a specified age. Prohibits prescribing of such medication unless used for a medically accepted indication that is age-appropriate.

House Bill 2333 requires a report to the legislature on information on the number of psychotropic prescriptions and prescribers for youth in the custody of Child Welfare.