

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 2465

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2021 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*Prepared by: Haylee Morse-Miller
Reviewed by: Gregory Jolivet
Date: March 10, 2021**Measure Description:**

Establishes Foster Parent Ombudsman in Department of Human Services and prescribes duties.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Human Services (DHS)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

	2021-23 Biennium	2023-25 Biennium
General Fund	\$235,604	\$267,605
Total Funds	\$235,604	\$267,605
Positions	1	1
FTE	0.88	1.00

Analysis:

HB 2465 establishes a new Foster Parent Ombudsman position in the Department of Human Services (DHS). The ombudsman is to be appointed to a four-year term by the Governor and is directed to assist foster parents, organize conferences and other gatherings related to foster care improvements, monitor policies that impact the state's foster care system, prepare quarterly reports to the Governor, and work with state and local agencies and other entities involved in foster care. The Foster Parent Ombudsman is directed to maintain a hotline for foster parents and establish procedures for foster parents to make complaints about their interactions with individuals or agencies involved in the foster care system. The ombudsman may appoint designees to serve as representatives of the ombudsman in local communities. The Foster Parent Ombudsman Advisory Committee is also established under this measure, and includes five members appointed by the Governor.

This measure takes effect on the 91st day after the legislature adjourns sine die, and is operative January 1, 2022. The Foster Parent Ombudsman and Advisory Committee are to be appointed before that date, and may take any action necessary to ensure this measure is implemented by January 1, 2022.

DHS anticipates establishing one permanent, full-time Operations and Policy Analyst 3 position (0.88 FTE in 2021-23, 1.00 FTE in 2023-25) to serve as the new Foster Parent Ombudsman. The total cost of this position and associated Services and Supplies is estimated at \$235,603 General Fund in 2021-23 and \$267,604 General Fund in 2023-25. DHS will use an existing number as the foster parent hotline; and as volunteers, the Advisory Committee members are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement of expenses, so there are no additional costs related to these portions of the measure.

This measure warrants a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for consideration of its budgetary impact.