

## HB 2505 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Human Services

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**Action Date:** 03/15/21

**Action:** Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 7-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 7 - Leif, Noble, Owens, Ruiz, Sanchez, Schouten, Williams

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**Meeting Dates:** 2/17, 3/15

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Child Welfare Equity Advisory Committee (Committee) in the Governor's Child Foster Care Advisory Commission (Commission), staffed by the Department of Human Services (DHS), to increase diversity of representation on the Commission. Permits the Commission to establish technical and advisory committees whose membership is representative of all populations in the foster care system impacted by their work, with the majority of members representing historically underserved communities. Provides guidelines for compensation. Defines purposes, scope, and reporting requirements. Requires report from the Commission to the Legislative Assembly by September 1 of each even-numbered year beginning with 2022.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Audits of DHS in 2015; staffing the Commission; compensating members
- Adjusting the size of the Commission, directing it to establish an equity committee, reducing the number of kids in foster care, eliminating bias in child welfare decisions

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Expands the Governor's Child Foster Care Advisory Commission membership to include family members of foster parents. Specifies which state agencies' decisions should be advised by the Commission. Permits the Commission to submit interim reports at its discretion.

#### BACKGROUND:

In August 2020, at Oregon Foster Youth Connection's virtual 2020 Policy Conference, current and former foster youth identified a need for an oversight entity with diverse membership to provide culturally responsive services and resources that meet the needs of foster youth of color.

House Bill 2505 A establishes the Child Welfare Equity Advisory Committee in the Governor's Child Foster Care Advisory Commission to improve equitable treatment of all populations who receive foster care.