

A-Engrossed
Senate Bill 279

Ordered by the Senate April 22
Including Senate Amendments dated April 22

Printed pursuant to Senate Interim Rule 213.28 by order of the President of the Senate in conformance with pre-session filing rules, indicating neither advocacy nor opposition on the part of the President (at the request of Senate Interim Committee on Human Services)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Directs Department of Human Services, to extent practicable, to avoid scheduling meetings and appointments involving child in foster care during school day. **Requires caseworker to ensure child's case file indicates number of school days missed during semester if child misses more than four school days due to visitations scheduled by department.**

Directs department to collect data and submit reports to Legislative Assembly regarding school days missed by children in foster care due to visitations scheduled by department.

Sunsets reporting requirement on January 1, 2024.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to school attendance of children in foster care; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:**

5 (a) **"Foster care" has the meaning given that term in ORS 339.133.**

6 (b) **"Visitation" does not include medical appointments, court appearances or interviews**
7 **with law enforcement or the Department of Human Services.**

8 (2) **When scheduling visitations for a child in foster care, the department must, to the**
9 **extent practicable, schedule the visitations at times and places that do not require the child**
10 **to miss part or all of a school day.**

11 (3) **If a child in foster care misses part or all of more than four school days in a semester**
12 **due to visitations scheduled by the department, the child's caseworker shall ensure that the**
13 **department's records regarding the child indicate the number of school days the child missed**
14 **during that semester.**

15 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section, "foster care" and "visitation" have the meanings**
16 **given those terms in section 1 of this 2021 Act.**

17 (2) **The Department of Human Services shall collect data regarding school days missed**
18 **by children in foster care due to visitations scheduled by the department and report that**
19 **data to the appropriate committees or interim committees of the Legislative Assembly at the**
20 **conclusion of each semester during the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years. The reports**
21 **must describe:**

22 (a) **The number, age and grade of children in foster care who missed part or all of at least**
23 **five but not more than six school days due to visitations scheduled by the department.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **(b) The number, age and grade of children in foster care who missed part or all of at least**
2 **seven but not more than eight school days due to visitations scheduled by the department.**

3 **(c) The number, age and grade of children in foster care who missed part or all of at least**
4 **nine but not more than 10 school days due to visitations scheduled by the department.**

5 **(d) The number, age and grade of children in foster care who missed part or all of at least**
6 **11 but not more than 15 school days due to visitations scheduled by the department.**

7 **(e) The number, age and grade of children in foster care who missed part or all of more**
8 **than 15 school days due to visitations scheduled by the department.**

9 **(f) The most common reasons given for why it was not practicable to schedule the**
10 **visitations outside of school hours.**

11 **(3) Not later than September 1, 2022, the Department of Human Services shall provide a**
12 **report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly regarding human services with**
13 **information regarding the school days missed by children in foster care during the 2021-2022**
14 **school year due to visitations scheduled by the department. The report must include infor-**
15 **mation about any initiatives the department plans to implement to address school absences**
16 **during the 2022-2023 school year. The report may also include recommendations regarding**
17 **policy initiatives to support the department's efforts to improve school attendance and the**
18 **educational success of children in foster care and, if applicable, budgetary resources neces-**
19 **sary to implement the recommendations.**

20 **SECTION 3.** **Section 2 of this 2021 Act is repealed on January 1, 2024.**

21 **SECTION 4.** **This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
22 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect**
23 **on its passage.**

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