



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Department
of Human Services

Oregon Department of Human Services

Office of the Director

500 Summer St. NE, E-15

Salem, OR 97301

Voice: 503-945-5600

Fax: 503-581-6198

Title: HB 2104A, Child Welfare: Removing Barriers to Permanency

Concept:

HB 2104A narrows the definition of “current caretaker” to be applicable when there is a permanency plan of adoption. It changes the requirement that a child who is a ward of the court must have either a permanency plan of adoption or a concurrent plan (an alternate permanency plan).

Need for policy change:

The ODHS’ Child Welfare Division has historically carried a significant backlog of pending adoption cases. In partnership with Casey Family Programs, Child Welfare has worked to identify barriers and make improvements to reduce and/or eliminate the backlog.

HB 2104A is an important technical fix for situations involving multiple siblings in care, especially when one of them is a newborn. Under the current law, if a child is in foster care and one or all of that child’s younger siblings also enters the system, there is a chance that existing statutes would prohibit placement of the oldest child with a relative along with their siblings, even if one of those siblings still had a plan for reunification in place. This bill will require a permanency plan of adoption to be in place before biological family members would be de-prioritized over current caretakers.

History:

- [SB 741 \(2015\)](#) established the current caretaker definition and was intended to give relatives and current caretakers equal status when being considered as prospective adoptive parents.

Additional information:

As the review is complete additional changes may be needed.

For more information please contact:

Soren Metzger
Senior Legislative Policy Analyst
Child Welfare and Vocational Rehabilitation
ODHS Government Relations Legislative Unit
Cell: (503) 277-9602
soren.k.metzger@dhsosha.state.or.us

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