

SB 1547 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/1, 2/3, 2/8, 2/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires personnel associated with recorded programs for preschool and school-age children to enroll in the Central Background Registry. Temporarily provides for exceptions if certain criteria are met, sunseting exceptions January 2, 2025. Collapses two redundant statutory sections into one, applicable to recorded programs. Operative January 1, 2023. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Informational meeting on LC 173 during the interim, on January 13, 2022
- Allowing transition time for current volunteers and employees
- Authorizing the Office of Child Care to investigate
- Secretary of State audit in 2020 that identified inconsistency in background checks
- Examples of subject entities including Boys and Girls Clubs and the YMCA
- Provisions of amendment, closing loopholes in regulation of secure transportation providers established via Senate Bill 710 (2021)
- Anticipating need for additional clarification in the future, that becomes evident over the course of practical implementation

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

[-3 amendment dated 02/03/22] Clarifies secure transport providers that are subject to regulation, and makes more explicit providers that are exempt. Specifies that a trip via secure transport refers to the *child's* trip, not the provider's route. Requires conspicuous display of certain disclosures with respect to licensing, to inhibit exploitation of misimpression that a given provider complies with Oregon's requirements when it does not. Authorizes enforcement by ODHS. Makes other conforming changes and provides captions for convenience.

BACKGROUND:

Recorded programs for preschool children are defined as primarily educational and delivered at a facility where children are only present up to four hours per day. Recorded programs for school-age children are defined as delivering developmental content outside of school hours and under the purview of school districts. Recorded programs are distinguished from other participants in the early learning system and are currently regulated differently. Program operators are currently required to perform criminal background checks for all program personnel, which they certify has been accomplished when a program is recorded with the Office of Child Care (OCC) at the Early Learning Division (ELD).

Senate Bill 1547 requires personnel associated with recorded programs for preschool and school-age children to enroll in the Central Background Registry maintained by the OCC, the same as other personnel in the early learning system who interact with children.