

SB 202 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/15, 2/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to develop and administer voluntary placement program to support the transition into adulthood for young adults previously in the care or custody of DHS with financial support, a stable living situation, and other supports. Specifies requirements for admission in the program.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Voluntary placement agreements in Oregon not permitted over the age of 18
- Clarifying permissions wards of the state have to ask of the Department of Human Services
- Receiving services as a young adult in Oregon that has experienced the foster care system
- Transitioning support for young adults that have been in the foster system

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Modifies the definition of young adult. Clarifies that when a young adult participates in a voluntary placement program the Department of Human Services has responsibility for the their placement and care but they are not in their legal custody.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Human Services' Independent Living Program (ILP) serves youth who are, or were, in foster care to become self-sufficient adults, through 5 programs:

- Independent Living Skill-Building Program - training and classes for living independently,
- ILP Discretionary Funds - funding for various needs,
- Independent Living Housing Subsidy Program – housing subsidy,
- Chafee Housing Program – housing funds,
- Chafee Education and Training Grant (ETG) - funds for college or training.

The National Youth in Transition Database [reports that in 2021](#), 1469 youth in Oregon received at least one independent living service. Young adults ages 18 to 21 must remain wards of the court to receive services from the ILP. A voluntary placement agreement is a binding, written agreement between the department and the parent or legal guardian of a minor child that does not transfer legal custody to the department but that specifies, at a minimum, the legal status of the child and the rights and obligations of the parent or legal guardian, the child and the department while the child is in placement (ORS 418.312).

Senate Bill 202 would require the Department of Human Services to develop and administer a voluntary placement program to support the transition into adulthood for young adults and would allow young adults to remain in foster care up to age 21 to receive ILP benefits and services through voluntary placement agreements.