

House Bill 2553

Sponsored by Representative MORGAN; Representatives LEVY B, SCHARF, Senators THATCHER, WEBER (Pre-session filed.)

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 **as introduced**.

Directs Oregon Health Authority to establish and administer grant program to provide financial assistance to certain prospective adoptive families.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to adoptions.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Oregon Health Authority shall establish and administer a grant**
5 **program for the purpose of providing financial assistance to prospective adoptive families.**

6 **(2) A prospective adoptive family is eligible to participate in the grant program under this**
7 **section if:**

8 **(a) The adoption is a private adoption facilitated by a licensed adoption agency and the**
9 **prospective adoptive family resides in this state; or**

10 **(b) The child is within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court under ORS 419B.100 and the**
11 **prospective adoptive family is biologically related to the child and resides in another state.**

12 **(3) Subject to the availability of funding, the grant program shall provide financial as-**
13 **sistance for:**

14 **(a) Prenatal and postnatal medical expenses of the birth parent and child that are not**
15 **otherwise covered by available public or private health insurance;**

16 **(b) Fees and costs associated with the adoption process, including court fees, attorney**
17 **fees, private adoption agency fees and fees charged by the Department of Human Services**
18 **for home studies and placement reports;**

19 **(c) Travel expenses; and**

20 **(d) Any other appropriate adoption-related expenses, as determined by the authority.**

21 **(4) The authority may not require the prospective adoptive family or birth parent to re-**
22 **fund any portion of the grant moneys awarded under this section if the proposed adoption**
23 **fails to be finalized for any reason.**

24 **(5) The authority shall adopt rules for the administration of the grant program estab-**
25 **lished under this section.**

26 **SECTION 2. Not later than September 15 of each odd-numbered year, the Oregon Health**
27 **Authority shall submit a report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly re-**
28 **lated to human services regarding the adoption assistance grant program described in sec-**
29 **tion 1 of this 2023 Act.**

30 **SECTION 3. The report described in section 2 of this 2023 Act is first due not later than**
31 **September 15, 2025.**

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 **SECTION 4.** (1) Section 1 of this 2023 Act becomes operative January 1, 2024.

2 (2) The Oregon Health Authority may take any action on or before the operative date
3 specified in subsection (1) of this section that is necessary for the authority to exercise, on
4 or after the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section, all of the duties, func-
5 tions and powers conferred on the authority by section 1 of this 2023 Act.

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