

SB 1016 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

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Meeting Dates: 4/24, 5/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) to permanently procure, distribute, and maintain an inventory of appropriate carriers for child welfare case workers to use when transporting the personal effects of a foster child. The measure prohibits ODHS from using trash bags to transport a foster child's personal effects and specifies additional requirements for ODHS to include in its annual report to the Legislative Assembly regarding the department's transportation of the personal effects of foster children.

REVENUE: No revenue impact.

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact.

SENATE VOTE: Ayes, 25; Nays, 3; Excused, 2.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impacts of prior legislation
- Variety of appropriate luggage carriers
- Impact of use of different luggage carriers on children and youth in foster care

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Children and youth in foster care may experience multiple out-of-home placements. According to the Department of Human Services' (ODHS) [dashboard on federal performance measures](#), in 2024, foster children in Oregon experienced an average of 4.5 placements per 1,000 days in care. This is a decrease from 2023, when ODHS reported that foster children in Oregon experienced an average of 5.0 placements per 1,000 days in care. The federal standard for rate of placement moves is 4.5 or fewer placements per 1,000 days in care.

In 2023, in response to reports that ODHS staff were providing children with trash bags to transport their belongings while changing foster care placements, the legislature passed [Senate Bill 548](#). That bill required ODHS to maintain a supply of luggage carriers for foster children to use when moving placements, and to [report](#) each year to the legislature on the luggage carrier inventory and any instances of the use of trash bags. [According to the 2024 ODHS report](#), between July 2023 and July 2024 there were 16,603 moves when a foster child's personal effects were transported. Of these moves, there were 10 instances in which trash bags were used. ODHS reported that it had purchased 6,155 luggage carriers over the year and currently had a stock of 3,413 carriers in inventory as of September 2024.